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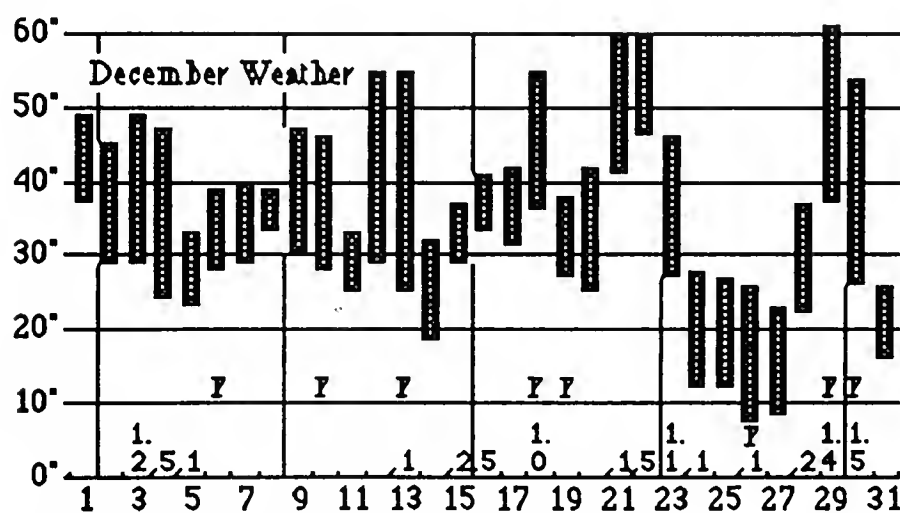
Volume 57

January 1991

Number 1

THE MONTH: December 1990

Wet! The record setting precipitation for December totalled 8.7 inches, 5 1/4 inches above normal. Only a small proportion of this fell as snow, total snowfall for the month 15.4 inches, well below the average 22 inches for December. In fact snowfall for the season was to the end of the year over 20 inches below normal. But consider: Weather Bureau personnel tell me that snow



On this chart rainfall rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 1st was a Saturday, the 2nd a Sunday. Buffalo data.

storm on the 3rd and 4th, the longest period of cold weather and the only wintery period was from the 24th to the 27th. Most of the snow, 7.4 inches, fell at this time, but the heavy rains of the 28th through the 30th took most of this snow away rapidly, in the process causing some local flooding. As usual the snowfall recorded by the Weather Service in Buffalo was more than matched south and west of the city. On Christmas Eve, for example, the 1.3 inch snowfall in Buffalo was outdone by six to twelve inches in the snow belt. Despite this brief cold snap, the general weather pattern — warm

converts to water from a ratio of as low as 3:1 for high water content lake effect snow to as high as 25:1 for synoptic weather system produced snow. That means that those 8.7 inches of precipitation under different conditions could have fallen as over 200 inches of snow.

As the chart shows, it was also a generally warm month, the average temperature of 34.4° about 5.5° above normal, the high of 61° on the 29th tying the record for that date. Notice that the temperature rose above 50° on seven days and fell below 20° on only six. Although there was a lesser

without much snow — suggests another good year for half-hardies like tit-mice.

As the chart shows, only the first two weekends were free of precipitation. The three "Christmas Count" weekends on the other hand were all rainy and those highs that generally follow fronts passing through the region all occurred on weekdays. This latter weather pattern suggests still another recommendation for newcomers to birding on the Niagara Frontier:

Buffalo Birding Axiom IV: Among the days of most pleasant weather are those that occur just after a front passes through the region. Following or driving these fronts are high pressure systems that produce clear sunny days. At all times of the year these are pleasant days to be outside, but during migration periods especially they often result in excellent birding.

Food is another factor influencing local bird populations. Pitzrick reports from Allegany County that wild food was nearly depleted by the end of the year with even multiflora rose hips "spotty" and weed seeds "apparently gone." On the other hand she notes buckthorn fruits "still plentiful" and a good crop of acorns remaining in the oak woods.

To correlate the effects of the open weather and the declining food resources with the birds in the region is an extremely difficult, perhaps impossible task. For example, it is logical to assume that the weather and food availability to the north of us influences birds in this region more than do our local characteristics. But that doesn't mean that we shouldn't look for relationships. Consider then this December's half-hardies and winter visitors. The unspecified comparisons are with December records for 1985-1990; other comparisons are with the historical record of BOS Christmas Counts (hereafter referred to as Counts).

First the half-hardies. Pied-billed Grebe numbers about average. Great Blue Heron: 74 on the BOS Christmas Count more than double the previous high of 33 in 1986. Black-crowned Night Heron: seen this year and last only. American Coot numbers about average. Tufted Titmouse reports similar in number, the 5 on the Count above the average of 3 for the 80s, but below the maximum of 10 in 1984. Only 4 Brown Creepers recorded on the Count, least in six years. The number of Carolina Wren reports compares favorably. Winter Wren, seen this year on the 8th, recorded last year on the 9th and not at all during the prior four years. The 12 Golden-crowned Kinglets on the Count compare poorly with the average counts for the 80s (19) and still worse than those of the 70s (23) and 60s (25). Ruby-crowned Kinglet, unreported this year, recorded in December last year and in two of the prior four years. The 14 Eastern Bluebirds found on the 14th continue the steady increase in records and numbers rising from none in 1985. Hermit Thrush: the single bird about average. American Robin: 104 on the Count down from 223 last year but near the average of 111 for the 80s. The 9 Northern Mockingbirds on the Count up from a previous maximum of 6. No Brown Thrashers reported this year, single birds found each of the last two years, none the previous three. No warblers reported in December, counting backwards through prior years there were 8, 1, 0, 4, and 1. The 131 Northern Cardinals on the Count well down from the average for the 80s (189) and the 70s (180) and far below last year's Count high of 321. The single Rufous-sided Towhee this month compares with in earlier years (again counting backward): 3, 2, 0, 1, and 0. No Chipping Sparrows this year, reported in three of the prior five years. Field Sparrows also absent, reported in four of the past five years. The single Fox Sparrow on the Count matched only in 1986 (by a non-Count bird). Swamp Sparrow records average for the month. White-throated Sparrow Count numbers down: 25 this year well below the 80s average of 103. No White-crowned Sparrows: reported in four of the prior

five years. Red-winged Blackbird: only 1 on the Count, far below the 80s average of 28. (Do these birds see bad weather coming?) No Eastern Meadowlarks this year, 6 on last year's Count, but recorded in only one of the previous four Decembers. Rusty Blackbird also absent: unreported in December 1989 or 1988, but reported in each of the prior three years. No Common Grackles this year: reported in each of the prior five. Replacing all of these icterids this year: Brown-headed Cowbirds, the 279 on the Count well above the previous maximum of 193 on the 1988 Count. This species has appeared in each of the past five Decembers.

Winter visitors. No Red-throated Loons this year, seen in 1989 and 1988, not in the previous four years. Red-necked Grebe absent, recorded in 1987 only. King Eider absent, recorded in 1985, 1986, and 1988. Harlequin Duck unrecorded for the past six years. Northern Goshawk: this year's single bird matched only in 1986. Rough-legged Hawk: numbers about average. Purple Sandpiper: recorded every year, but the 6 this year only outmatched by 7 in 1986. Little Gull: average. Common Black-headed Gull absent, recorded in 1985 and 1987. Bonaparte's Gull numbers up for the month and on the Count. The 15 Iceland Gulls on the Count a remarkable high, better than twice the previous high of 7 in 1977. The number of Lesser Black-backed Gull reports continues to increase. Glaucous Gull average. Black-legged Kittiwake: reported only this December and in 1988, the Count record one of only five in the 62 year history. A few Snowy Owls returned after last year's absence. Long-eared Owl: average, absent in 1985 and 1987. Short-eared Owl down from the good numbers of 1987 and 1988, but well up from last year; absent in 1985. Northern Saw-whet Owl: absent, recorded only in 1986 and 1989. No Bohemian Waxwings: reported in 1985, 1987, and last year. The number of Northern Shrike reports this year is high for the six years. American Tree Sparrow Count numbers less than half of the previous two years and also about half of the 62 year average. Lapland Longspur seen this year, last, and in 1985 only. Snow Bunting numbers average. Pine Grosbeak: absent, recorded only in 1985. No crossbills: White-winged Crossbills recorded last year and in 1985. No redpolls: 4 Common Redpolls on last year's Count the only December record, absent the previous two years, but maximum counts of 50 and 200 in 1985 and 1986. Pine Siskins may be continuing to return from their low two years ago, but still few and far between. Evening Grosbeak: also recovering from its 1988 low with good counts from widespread areas, yet still well below the six year peak in 1987.

It will be interesting to compare these December records with those of early January when the listers provide more intensive coverage.

A few other notes. The Northern Gannet remained in the region through the 2nd. On the Christmas Count the total number of swans, geese, and dabbling ducks was a full third higher than the average for the 1980s, but diving ducks were down to 43% of the corresponding average. Because there are many more diving ducks counted, the overall waterfowl count was down to 57% of the 1980s average. Bellerby reports the last sighting of the Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird in Grimsby as December 10th.

The November "Month" contained at least two errors: I represented Black-bellied Plovers and Pectoral Sandpipers recorded on the 3rd as occurring after the late *Date Guide* dates of October 30 and 25 respectively. The correct *Date Guide* entries are November 28 and 12. The October dates are average departure dates for western New York State in recent years taken from *The Kingbird*. — G. Rising

Literature cited:

Andrle, Robert F., et al., eds. *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario*. Fifth Edition. Buffalo, Buffalo Ornithological Society, 1983.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1984) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- * - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates previously documented breeding area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	1	1	Prendergast Pt	Rew, Buck
"	8	1	over Porter Twp	D'Anna
Pied-billed Grebe	7,14	6,1	Lakewood	Sundell
"	8-29	1-2	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory, Holmes et al
Horned Grebe	2	2	Niagara Falls, Ont	Andrie(BOS)
"	8-29	1-4	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory, Holmes et al
<u>Northern Gannet</u>	2	1	Queenston, Lewiston	D'Anna, Andrie, Watson
D.-crest. Cormorant	1	1	Motor Is, Niag R.	Watson
"	1	1	Athol Springs	Andrie
"	1-29	1-3	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory, Holmes et al
"	2	1	Prendergast Pt	Sundell
"	9,16	1	Niagara Falls	Collins
Great Blue Heron	6-30	23max	Motor Is & vicin	Watson
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	16	4	St. Catharines	Bellerby
Tundra Swan	1,9	148,46	Chautauqua Lake	Rew, Buck
"	9	20	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	31	4	Ft Erie, Ont	Sommerville
<u>Mute Swan</u>	8	1	Bird Is Pier	Watson
Snow Goose	8	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
"	9	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Keller
"	31	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
Wood Duck	13	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Pintail	30	2	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
Northern Shoveler	2	6	Iroquois NWR	Collins
"	8	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Gadwall	1	23	Mayville	Rew, Buck
"	7	28	Lakewood	Sundell
Canvasback	2,8	100,180	Mayville	Flory, Goetz
"	30	1000	Beaver Is SP	Watson
Redhead	7,14	180,120	Lakewood	Sundell
Ring-necked Duck	14	130	Lakewood	Sundell
White-winged Scoter	1	50	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
Hooded Merganser	1,9	257,447	Mayville	Rew, Buck
"	2,8	200,5560	Mayville	Flory, Goetz
"	14	60	Lakewood	Sundell
Ruddy Duck	1,2,8,9	10,12,10,4	Mayville	Rew, Flory et al
"	7	36	Lakewood	Sundell
Northern Harrier	1	5	Golden Hill SP	Chilton

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Northern Harrier	24	5	Yates Twp	Chilton
"	30	6	Porter Twp	D'Anna, Potter
Sharp-sh. Hawk	2-28	7 reports	throughout	WNY
Cooper's Hawk	1-31	7 reports	throughout	WNY
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	8	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	Stockton Twp.	Rew, Buck
"	1,15,28	1,1,1	Yates Twp	Chilton
"	17,27	1,3	Ward Twp	Brooks
"	28	1	Porter Twp	Roberson
American Coot	9	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Purple Sandpiper	2	2	Niagara Falls, Ont	Andrie(BOS)
"	9	2	Jaeger Rocks	Collins
"	16	6	Niagara Falls	Collins
Franklin's Gull	9	1	Adam Beck Hydro	Collins
Little Gull	9	2	Ft Erie, Ont	Collins
"	16	1	Niagara Falls	Collins
Bonaparte's Gull	1-29	1500max	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory et al
"	8	40000	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
Iceland Gull	2	3	Adam Beck Hydro	Andrie(BOS)
"	3-22	1-2	Adam Beck Hydro	Bellerby
"	9,16	1,2	Niagar Falls	Collins
<u>L. Black-b. Gull</u>	1	1	Athol Springs	Andrie "
"	2	3	Niagara Falls	Andrie et al(BOS)
"	9	1	Adam Beck Hydro	D'Anna et al
"	23	1	Niagara Falls	Watson, Galas et al
Glaucous Gull	2	2	Niagara Falls	Andrie et al
"	8-20	1	Adam Beck Hydro	Bellerby
<u>Black-leg. Kittiwake</u>	9	1	Ft Erie, Ont	Collins
Snowy Owl	14F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers, Klaybor
"	15,22	1,1	Yates Twp	Chilton
"	30	1	Pomfret Twp	Flory et al
Long-eared Owl	22,24	2,1	Elma Twp	Galas, Collins et al
Short-eared Owl	23,28,30	7,4,7	Porter Twp	D'Anna, Roberson et al
"	24	1	Java	Collins
"	28	3	Yates Twp	Chilton
Red-headed Wdpkr.	8	1	Ft Niagara SP	D'Anna
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	1-31	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	9	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	15,16,30	1	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budnieski
Horned Lark	28	65	Somerset Twp	Chilton
<u>E. a. apastris</u>				
Black-cap. Chickadee	23	180	E. Aurora&vicin	Collins, Galas
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	5,6,26,29	2	Niagara Falls(f)	Roberson
"	8	2	Golden Hills SP	Chilton
Red-br. Nuthatch	1-31	1	Hamburg(f)	Brandes
"	1-31	2	Niagara Falls(f)	Roberson
"	11-31	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
Carolina Wren	5,31	1	Eden Twp	Andrie
"	8	1	Mayville	Flory, Goetz
"	9,16	2	Queenston, Ont	Collins
Winter Wren	8L	1	Porter Twp	D'Anna
Golden-cr. Kinglet	23	10	Emery Park	Collins, Galas

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Eastern Bluebird	2	2	Sheridan Park	C. Budniewski
"	6,12,17	2,2,6	Perrysburg Twp	Chilton
"	11,17	5,6	East Aurora	Holmes
"	17	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	22	4	East Aurora	Burch, Holmes
Hermit Thrush	5-8	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
Northern Mockingbird	1-31	1	Ft Erie, Ont	Sommerville
"	23	1	Niagara Twp	Watson et al
Northern Shrike	1,7,22,28	1,1,2,2	L Ont Plain & Sheridan	Chilton
"	8	1	Porter Twp	D'Anna
"	16	1	Iroquois NWR	Holmes
"	23	1	Porter Twp	Cooper, Insalaco
"	23	1	Niagara Twp	Galas et al
"	30	1	Pomfret Twp	Moshers
Rufous-s. Towhee	26	1	Grand Island	Burch
Swamp Sparrow	8	2	Tliff NP	Watson
"	11	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Lapland Longspur	28	2	Somerset Twp	Chilton
Snow Bunting	9	18	Charlotte Twp	Rew
"	23	30	East Aurora	Collins
Red-w. Blackbird	15,21	2,1	Tonawanda	Watson
Brown-headed Cowbird	3-31	71max	Tonawanda	Watson
"	5-28	7-25	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
Purple Finch	29	3	Amity Twp	Pitzrick
Pine Siskin	2	25	Queenston, Ont	D'Anna et al
"	26	2	East Aurora	Holmes
Evening Grosbeak	1-16	72max	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
"	1-31	50	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	1-31	38max	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	8,9	20,12	Charlotte Twp	R&C Budniewski
"	11	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	12	34	Ridgeway, Ont	Sommerville

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	275
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue . . (Addenda)	1
Total for year	276

ADDENDA

1988

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	Mar. 27	1	Oakfield Twp	Seamans
<u>Black-leg. Kittiwake</u>	Dec. 23	1	Ft Erie, Ont	Schaffner et al

1989

<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	Jan. 22	1	Sheridan Twp	Budniewski
<u>Black-bill. Magpie</u>	Sep. 4,5	1	Youngstown	Lamson, Chillberg
(Photograph)				

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	1990 <u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
<u>White Ibis</u>	Nov. 7	1	Langford	Collins
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	Nov. 4	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Collins et al
<u>Merlin</u>	May 9	1	Delaware Park	Humann
<u>Marbled Godwit</u>	May 2	1	Tonawanda WMN	Roberson
<u>Lark Sparrow</u>	May 19	1	Canadaway Cr. NS	Mezzio, Schafer

Report of the 62nd B.O.S.
Christmas Bird Count

A fair Christmas count resulted from fair weather. It was mild with light rain in the morning and afternoon. There were 47 participants in the Buffalo circle. 74 species were counted and 64,156 individuals were reported in the 16 territories.

Facts and figures for the 62nd Buffalo Circle Christmas Count are reported below:

Date: December 16, 1990

Area: Centering on Grand Island, including both branches of the Niagara River and adjacent territory - from the Gorge below the Falls to Fort Erie and Buffalo.

Weather: Morning and afternoon were partly cloudy with light rain. Temperatures ranged from an early morning low of 36° (F) to an afternoon high of 39°(F), with winds from the W-SW at 10-15 mph. The Niagara River was free of ice. The snow cover was 0.

Coverage: Forty-seven observers in 16 parties made observations from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Party-hours were 134.5 (51.5 on foot and 83 by car), plus 21 hours at feeders and 7.25 hours owling. Party-miles were 696 (47 on foot and 649 by car).

Territories and Observers: (leaders underlined)

A. Canada: Rainbow Bridge south to Welland River and Niagara River west to M.C.R.R., Portage Road and area boundary. Robert Andrie, James Gregory, 44 species, 13,831 individuals.

B. Canada: Welland River south to Black Creek and the Niagara River west to the Queen Elizabeth Way and area boundary. Richard Byron, Barbara Byron, 28 species, 1391 individuals.

C. Canada: Queen Elizabeth Way west to area boundary and south to Bowen Road. Wavel Barber, Maxine Barber, Arthur Schaffner, 22 species, 4444 individuals.

D. Canada: Black Creek south to the Peace Bridge and the Niagara River west to the Queen Elizabeth Way. Frances Rew, Audrey Horbet, Ellen Schopp, Alec Humann, 22 species, 2695 individuals.

- E. Canada: Bowen Road south to area boundary and west to Queen Elizabeth Way and Niagara River. Harold Axtell, Blayne Farnan, Drew Campbell, Robert Sommerville, Gary Novosel, Brad Clements, Marcia Foster, 41 species, 2397 individuals.
- F. Niagara Falls: Porter Road, Hyde Park Blvd., Pine Ave. and Main St. south to Niagara River, including Goat and Cayuga Islands and east to Military Road. Ed Crohn, Karen Renning, Maryann Steklerneyer, Harriette & Walter Klaabunde, 27 species, 18,700 individuals.
- G. North Tonawanda: Military Rd. southwest to N.Y.S. Barge Canal and Niagara River northeast to area boundary. Willie D'Anna, Anna Bauer, Ken Cohen, Betsy Potter. Feeder watchers: Don Roberson, Mary Clemesha, Gertrude Ruggles, 43 species, 4698 individuals.
- H. Tonawanda: Sheridan Drive north to N.Y.S. Barge Canal and Niagara River east to area boundary. Mike Galas, William Watson, 32 species, 3324 individuals.
- J. Buffalo: Sheridan Drive east and south to area boundary, west to Niagara River. Chuck Rosenburg, 30 species, 2087 individuals.
- K. Grand Island: West of Stony Point Rd., north of Huth and Long Roads to the Niagara River. Kathy Hentz, Marg Smith, Ruth Williams, 26 species, 1338 individuals.
- L. Grand Island: Huth and Long Roads south to Whitehaven Rd. and Stony Point Rd. west to the Niagara River. Bill Burch, Don Brasure, 24 species, 1370 individuals.
- M. Grand Island: East of Stony Point Rd. and north of Whitehaven Rd. to the Niagara River. Ronald Lange, 26 species, 993 individuals.
- N. Grand Island: Whitehaven Rd. south to Love Rd. and Baseline Rd. west to Niagara River. Bob Brock, David Cooper, 24 species, 683 individuals.
- O. Grand Island: Whitehaven Road south to Love Rd. and Baseline Rd. east to the Niagara River. Julia Wells, Ton Burke, 24 species, 981 individuals.
- P. Grand Island: Love Rd. south to Spaulding Rd. from the East Branch to the West Branch of the Niagara River. Doug Happ, Merle Malone, Pat Martin, Dave Burns, 38 species, 1092 individuals.
- Q. Grand Island: South of Spaulding Rd. to the Niagara River. Alice McKale, Dick Christensen, Bill Thompson, 36 species, 3290 individuals.

Species Recorded: With reference to the species count, letters in parentheses indicate the territories where the birds were found, in those cases where they reported from three or fewer territories.

Common Loon - 4(A,D,Q)	Redhead - 38
D.-cr. Cormorant - 1(A)	Greater Scaup - 1354
Gr. Blue Heron - 74, High last 10 yrs.	
Bl.-crown. Night Heron - 2. first since 1977(J)	
Tundra Swan - 6(P,Q)	Mute Swan - 1(J)
Canada Goose - 1682	Oldsquaw - 1(H)
Am. Black Duck - 88, low ave. 23	Common Goldeneye - 2086
Mallard - 2269	Bufflehead - 213
N. Pintail - 4(K,L)	Hooded Merganser - 7
Gadwall - 28(A,G,J)	Common Merganser - 757, low since 1973, ave 3000
American Wigeon - 53(A)	Red-br. Merganser - 116
Canvasback - 2451, lowest since 1977	
Ruddy Duck - 3(D,Q)	

Northern Harrier - 9(C,E)	Sharp-sh. Hawk - 1(E)
Cooper's Hawk - 2(E,J)	Red-tailed Hawk - 114
Rough-leg. Hawk - 8(C,D,E)	Am. Kestrel - 46 above ave. of 33

Ring-neck. Pheasant - 15(D,F)	Purple Sandpiper - 6(A)
Little Gull - 2(A)	Bonaparte's Gull - 7705
Ring-billed Gull - 8019, high since 1979	
Herring Gull - 8143, above ave.	Iceland Gull - 15(A,B) highest ever
Glaucous Gull - 1(A)	Gr. Bl.-back Gull - 330
Black-legged Kittiwake - 1(D)	

Rock Dove - 1270	Mourning Dove - 450
Screech Owl - 7	Great Horned Owl - 7
Long Eared Owl - 1(E)	
Belted Kingfisher - 6	Red-bellied Wdpkr - 5(D,E,Q)
Downy Wdpkr - 72	Hairy Wdpkr - 3(P,Q)
N. Flicker - 7	

Blue Jay - 296	Am. Crow - 240
Bl.-capped Chickadee - 452	Tufted Titmouse - 5(A,N,P)
Red-br. Nuthatch - 4(E,G,P)	White-br. Nuthatch - 50, high since 1970
Brown Creeper - 4	Carolina Wren - 1(D)
Golden-cr. Kinglet - 12	Am. Robin - 104
N. Mockingbird - 9 highest ever	Cedar Waxwing - 2, low, ave 17(F)
N. Shrike - 3(E,G,K)	

European Starling - 21,940	N. Cardinal - 131
Am. Tree Sparrow - 187	Fox Sparrow - 1(G)
Song Sparrow - 10	White-th. Sparrow - 25(E,H,P)
Dark-eyed Junco - 161	Red-w. Blackbird - 1, low (B)
Br.-headed Cowbird - 279, highest ever	
House Finch - 515, highest ever	Am. Goldfinch - 181
House Sparrow - 2028	

Compiler - William Bogacki

Bird Island Pier Coverage for Fall 1990

The table associated with this note provides a compilation of 16 hike records for the Bird Island Pier for the period August 28 to November 24, 1990. Sixteen birders participated in this survey. They are (with number of trips when more than one in parentheses): J. Boyer, W. Burch, R. Collins, W. D'Anna (3), D. DiTommaso, M. Galas, J. Heyer, A. Horbett, C. Mueller, F. Rew (2), G. Rising (3), D. Roberson (2), M. Saville, M. Stewart, W. Watson (8), and P. Yoerg.

This year's records should represent a trial year, serving to initiate a longer term project for wider participation by B. O. S. members but with some of the ground rules for subsequent years modified on the basis of the experience of the first year. The main modification that I recommend is extension of coverage to all of Bird Island as well as the pier itself. The current restriction to records from the pier only prevented some observers from including birds seen a few hundred yards downstream, including several Sabine's Gulls. (I didn't even realize that the walkway extended north along the river front providing additional good observation vantage points.)

Despite this restriction, this year's observations provide some interesting data. The total number of species recorded is 54. Major groups are: 12 species of waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans), 10 shorebirds, and 9 gulls and terns. The most numerous species is the Bonaparte's Gull, with numbers seeming to peak in late September, but with a major reprise in late November. Shorebird numbers peaked in mid-September with Sanderlings the dominant species.

The list of species occurring only once is surprisingly long: Common Loon, Black-crowned Night Heron, Gadwall, Oldsquaw, Surf Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Red Knot, Baird's Sandpiper, Dunlin, Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Nighthawk, Belted Kingfisher, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Marsh Wren, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Add to these 24 species the four recorded only twice, Little Gull, Sabine's Gull, Black Tern, and Snow Bunting, and you have over half of the species recorded through the full season.

The regular autumn flight along the river of swallows and swifts is represented on these counts only by Chimney Swift with almost 600 reported on September 14. In particular the many thousands of Purple Martins recorded in Fort Erie from September 23 to 25 were completely missed on the pier. (No one hiked the pier on those specific dates, but the two excursions on the 22nd found none.)

I express my thanks to the many participating observers during this first trial year. To obtain this quite good coverage (after only a single informal invitation to take part on a B. O. S. hike) once again indicates the willingness of members to contribute to a wide range of defined activities. — G. Rising

Bird Island Pier Fall 1990

SPECIES \ DATE	Aug 28	Sep 7	Sep 10	Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 22	Sep 22	Sep 26	Sep 27	Sep 28	Oct 5	Oct 6	Oct 10	Oct 28	Oct 30	Nov 24
Common Loon														1		
Double-cr. Cormorant		2		9	16	5	2	1	45	162	85	41	42	11	7	
Black-cr. Night Heron			6													
Mute Swan		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Canada Goose							57	2					59			
American Black Duck				2							3	1	2	3		2
Mallard	26	22		16	22	7	21	28	11	9	15	15	46	5	14	57
Gadwall																4
American Widgeon	6	4											1			2
Lesser Scaup								1				1	1			
Oldsquaw														12		
Surf Scoter											10					
Common Goldeneye																138
Bufflehead														180	8	33
Red-br. Merganser											1	1		4	11	14
American Coot											3	3	5	12	13	
Semipalmated Plover			2	3	3		2									
Lesser Yellowlegs	1															
Spotted Sandpiper	3															
Ruddy Turnstone	4	2	2	5	4	7	6	2	4	3	3	1				
Red Knot				1												
Sanderling	6	6	21	40	66	80	64	16	13	25	18	19	4			
Semipalm. Sandpiper	7	5	2		6	4	4			1						
Least Sandpiper	3	8	3		1											
Baird's Sandpiper							1									
Dunlin							1									
Little Gull											2					1
Bonaparte's Gull	102	503	360	130	190	75	500	500	150	600	500	157	1	200		800
Ring-billed Gull	121	301	280	35	158	15	230	300	75	350	188	284	25	70	115	120
Herring Gull	6	9	14	12	8	9	16	24	6	40	6	4	3		3	14
Gr. Black-backed Gull	2	3	2	3	2	1	1		2	1	3	2		1		8
Black-legged Kittiwake																1
Sabine's Gull										1	2					
Common Tern	14	6		14	4		2	1	3	3						
Black Tern	8	5														
Rock Dove		2	2	3	2	2			6	5		2			6	2
Common Nighthawk			1													
Chimney Swift	250		256	590	88	35	340									
Belted Kingfisher										1						
Purple Martin	15															
Tree Swallow							2									
N. Rgh-wing. Swallow							16									
Barn Swallow	1															
swallow species				1												
American Crow				3			1					1		4		
Marsh Wren													1			
American Pipit									1							
European Starling	300	1	65	70	120		260	100	25	2	237	42	110	100		80
Yellow-rumped Warbler													15			
Palm Warbler									1							
Savannah Sparrow									1							
Snow Bunting														1	5	
Red-winged Blackbird		3	136	2	4	1	27		10			8				
Brown-headed Cowbird									9							
House Sparrow		7					6		20							
Total Species	18	18	16	18	17	13	22	12	18	15	16	17	15	15	10	16
Total Individuals	875	890	1153	940	695	242	1560	976	383	1204	1077	583	316	605	183	1277
Time started	1655	1515	1903	1530	804	1300	1705	1700	1030	910	1545	820	1700	730	1000	1015
Time finished	1803	1710	2016	1800	938	1430	1903	1830	1210	1215	1730	1010	1815	900	1130	1210
Wind direction	SW	N	SW	S	W	WSW	W	SSW	SW	SW	WSW	SW	E	W	SSW	W
Wind speed	25	25	25	15	25	25	20	5	5	5	25	25	5	25	20	20
Weather	RainTh	OC	PC	OC	PC	PC	PC-S	PC	OC	S	PC	PC	PC	PC	S	Cl
Temperature	70°	70°	60°	70°	55°	60°	60°	69°	60°	68°	67°	70°	55°	45°	52°	34°

B.O.S. Niagara River Field Trip
December 2, 1990

The day was cool with a light northwesterly wind as about 30 members and friends traveled north from the Peace Bridge along the Canadian side of the Niagara. We had to slow down to allow part of the resident flock of Canada Geese to walk sedately across the parkway. Although the river contained few waterfowl, we were treated to the fine sight of hundreds of Canvasbacks flying high overhead upriver in "V's" and echelon formations.

Some Redheads were present in the raft of scaup just upstream from the water control dam near the falls. Just below this structure we spotted an adult Little Gull among the multitudes of Bonaparte's Gulls feeding in the swiftly flowing water. Over 200 Great Black-backed Gulls were counted in this area. After walking out on the new bridge and river pathway opposite Dufferin Islands we had a different and closer view of the rapids and rock areas upstream from the islands and stranded barge. There we watched two Purple Sandpipers feeding in a shallow, fast-flowing waterway, and also sighted a male Northern Pintail and a Hooded Merganser from this vantage point. Farther downstream an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was spotted on the rocks among the thousands of resting Herring Gulls there.

In the gorge below the falls two Immature Glaucous Gulls were conspicuous in their whitish plumage and two Horned Grebes floated in calm water near the shore. Two more adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls were discovered on the rocks above the river on the American shore, and an adult "Thayer's" Gull cruised about among the many Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls flying near the hydroelectric plant out-flow on the Canadian side.

Farther downriver off the hydroelectric plants we sighted an adult and two immature Iceland Gulls among the myriad gulls feeding there, and close scrutiny also revealed an adult "Thayer's" Gull among them. Earlier in the morning some of our party, while coming from Lewiston and Niagara Falls to meet us, had seen the Immature Northern Gannet flying over the river near Queenston, so we were delighted to find it again as we walked in the gorge upriver near the Queenston bridge. Most of our party saw this bird, and for some it was a "lifer." Others also watched the gannet alight in the river, and it was reported to have made dives for fish. Apparently it had flown upriver from Lake Ontario where several Northern Gannets, one an adult, had previously been reported. Another adult "Thayer's" Gull flew near us as we later looked in vain for the gannet downstream from Sir Adam Beck hydrostation # 2. We found no sign of the Common Black-headed Gull reported earlier in the Queenston area. Overall this field trip proved to be a very satisfying excursion with many good opportunities to study and enjoy the river's gulls, waterfowl and other birds. Good companionship was another plus, and the day was made even more memorable by the views of the Northern Gannet, an oceanic species which has rarely been found in our region and apparently never before on the Niagara River this far from the Great Lakes.

Robert Andrie

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to New Associate Members:

Sue & Dennis Gralek
167 Westfall Dr.
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Tel. 835-2790

Please Note the Following changes in your
Membership Roster:

Nancy Stengel
2149 Woode St.
P.O. Box 748
North Collins, NY 14111

Members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society
were saddened by the deaths of

David M. Bigelow
December 13, 1990

and

William H. Wendel
December 3, 1990

REMINDER

Members are asked to pay their Dues if they have
not already done so.
Please take care of this important matter.

BOS MEETINGS

- Feb. 27: Eric Derleth will present a program on the Woodcock.
- Mar. 13: Marian Shannon will discuss Wildlife Possibilities of Vacant
Railroad Rights-of-Way in Buffalo.
- Mar. 27: Bill Burch presents an informative program on Telescopes and other
optical considerations for birders.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15 inclusive, except the fourth Wednesdays in November and December, at 8:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

- Feb. 24: Sunday. Canadian Owl trip. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Vermont & Busti or at 9:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leaders: Blayne Farnan (1-416-834-7541) & Wavel Barber (683-3061).
- Mar. 16: SATURDAY. Lake Ontario plains around Lewiston, NY. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Tops Market in Lewiston. Leader: Willie D'Anna (1-731-4348).
- Mar. 24: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for spring waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World, 0.1 mi. east of Main & Transit. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297).
- Apr. 14: Sunday. BOS April bird count.
- Apr. 21: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World, 0.1 mi. east of Main & Transit. We will join the GOS at 9:30 at the Braddock Bay Park shelter. Leaders: Mike Zebehazy (662-6987) and Bob Spahn (GOS).
- Apr. 27: SATURDAY. Hawk migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 am at the Howard Johnson parking lot where I-90 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Hwy 62) in Niagara Falls, NY. Or go directly to Beamer Conservation Area. This is 30 mi. into Canada on QEW, on escarpment above Grimsby.
- May 5: Sunday. Tifft Nature Center. Meet at 7:00am in Tifft parking Lot. This is a half-day trip for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Bill Watson (695-2820).
- May 12: Sunday. Williamsville Glen Park for warblers. Meet at 7:00 am in the Park parking lot off Glen Ave. (in Williamsville go east on Main St., cross Ellicott creek, turn left on Mill then left on Glen Ave.) Leader: Gery Rising (689-8301). A half-day trip.
- May 19: Sunday. May BOS Bird Count. For a territory contact the compiler, Morgan Jones (433-5687).
- May 26: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Vermont & Busti or at 6:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought. For further information contact the field trip chairman, Bill Burch 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler: Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer:
Jane Heyer
296 Westchester BLVD
Kenmore, NY 14217
875-3318

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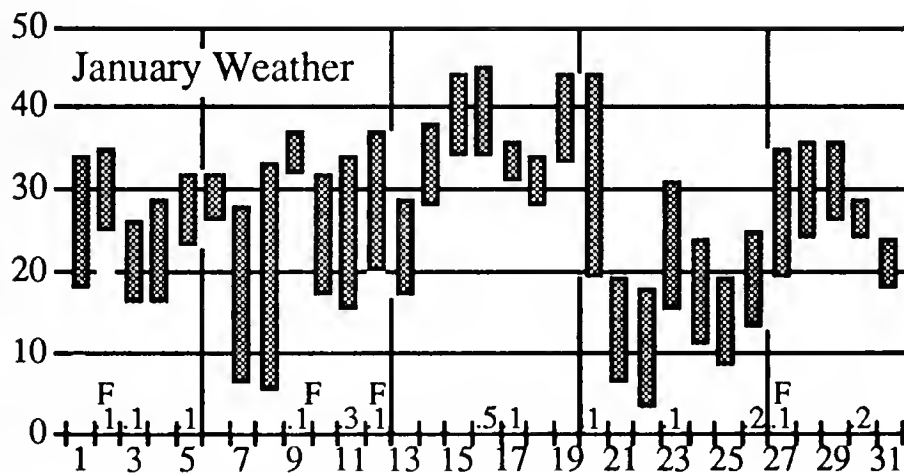
Volume 57

February 1991

Number 2

THE MONTH: January 1991

The usual weather pattern for January on the Niagara Frontier is lake effect snow until the eastern end of Lake Erie is completely frozen by about mid-month, then cold but with less snow. This January reversed the precipitation pattern. The first 20 days continued the mild weather of this winter with less than six inches of snow and with temperatures averaging five degrees above normal. Even though the temperature dipped below 10° on the 7th and 8th, on almost all days it rose above freezing during this period. The remainder of the month from the



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 5th was a Saturday, the 6th a Sunday. Data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

21st to the 31st was more like winter with seasonal temperatures and blowing snow. Over two-thirds of the January snow fell during those last eleven days.

Average temperature for the full month was 26.0°, 2.5° above normal. Total precipitation was 2.1 inches, almost a full inch below normal, but translating into 16.6 inches of generally light snow, at least a trace of which fell on every day of the month.

The strongest January winds were on the 18th and 19th, but the relative mildness of these days tempered their effect. On the other hand lesser winds,

but with gusts in the mid-40s, together with snow squalls closed roads in the snow belts south of Buffalo on the 24th and 31st. Snow cover never exceeded two inches until the 27th when it doubled after a fall of 5.6 inches on the 26th. It rose to five inches by the end of the month.

In my December account I commented about the occurrence of half-hardies and winter visitors: "It will be interesting to compare these December records with those of early January when the listers provide more intensive coverage." Now that

we have those records, let us see what that comparison provides. In the following two paragraphs I repeat some December comments in italics and add my interpretation of the January data. Comparisons are over the six year period, 1986-1991.

First the half-hardies. Pied-billed Grebe *numbers about average*, fewer remaining in January than in past years, the Waterfowl Count down as well. Great Blue Heron: 74 on the BOS Christmas Count *more than double the previous high*, 46 continuing into January this year up from last year's January high of 34. Black-crowned Night Heron: *seen this year and last only*, the one found on the 10th the first since 1986. American Coot *numbers about average*, and continuing so, this confirmed by the Waterfowl Count. Dunlin were recorded in mid-month, well outside their *Date Guide* range. Tufted Titmouse, *reports similar in number*, ditto. Only 4 Brown Creepers recorded on the Count, *least in six years*, but many scattered records in January. The number of Carolina Wren reports *compares favorably*, same in January. Winter Wren, *seen this year, last, and not at all during the prior four*, the single bird of the 1st matched in only two of the previous five years. Golden-crowned Kinglets on the Count *compare poorly with the 80s, 70s, and 60s*, present in small numbers. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, *unreported in December or January*, only found in 1987. Eastern Bluebirds *steady increase in records and numbers rising*, this year and last records widespread, only two reported 1986-89. Hermit Thrush: *the single bird about average*, none this year with only two in the previous five. American Robin: 104 on the Count down from 223 last year but *near average for the 80s*, up in January with the one day count of 225 almost doubling the previous high of 125 in 1986. Northern Mockingbird *numbers on the Count up*, maximum count of 2 down from 6 last year. Gray Catbird was not even included in the December listing, but Linda Holmes turned up one and then two in Sinking Ponds toward the end of January. One reported in 1989 is the only other record in the six year period. No Brown Thrashers reported, nor did any turn up in January, only one found in the previous five years. No warblers reported in December, but Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported twice in January as well as in three of the previous five years. Northern Cardinals on the Count well down from the average for the 80s and 70s and far below last year's high; unfortunately January reports provide no basis for comparison. The single December Rufous-sided Towhee improved to two in January, same as last year, but only two recorded in the earlier four years. No Chipping Sparrows this year or in January, reported in three of the prior five years. Field Sparrows also absent, absent in January as well, reported in three of the past five years. The single Fox Sparrow on the Count did not remain, not reported in the six year period. Swamp Sparrow records average for the month, but the five on January 13th ties the high in 1987, only two others reported since 1986. White-throated Sparrow Count numbers down, no way to compare in January. No White-crowned Sparrows, but records up in January with nine on the 6th best in six years. Red-winged Blackbird: *only one on the Count, far below the 80s average. (Do these birds see bad weather coming?)* Evidently not, because January records are similar to those of recent years. No Eastern Meadowlarks in either month, only recorded in 1987 and 1988. Rusty Blackbird absent in December but reports more widespread than in recent years in January. No Common Grackles in December or January: found in four of the previous five years. Brown-headed Cowbirds, the 279 on the Count well above the previous maximum, continuing good (in a very restricted sense) numbers in January.

Winter visitors. No Red-throated Loons in either month, a single bird seen only on January 1, 1989. Red-necked Grebe absent, absent in January but recorded the previous two years. King Eider absent, not present in January either, recorded only in 1989 and 1987; but this year two immatures were found in Lake Ontario some 20 miles east of our region. Harlequin Duck unrecorded in both months, appeared only in January 1988. Northern Goshawk: recorded in December but not in January, recorded in three of the prior five years. Rough-legged Hawk: *numbers about average* in both months. Purple Sandpiper: numbers comparable to recent years. Little Gull: average, but well down to apparently two birds in January from last year's exceptional high one day count of 17. Common Black-headed Gull absent, but a single bird returned (?) for the first half of January, unreported in January since 1986. Bonaparte's Gull *numbers up*, well up in January as well, the 15,000 estimate

matching one in 1987. The low was reached last year when the maximum of 44 (!) was recorded. Bellerby's Niagara-on-the-Lake fly-by counts show a decline from 10,900 on the 3rd to 830 by the end of the month. The 15 Iceland Gulls on the Count a remarkable high, January's 3 comparable to recent years. The number of Lesser Black-backed Gull reports continues to increase, but only a single bird was recorded in January, also recorded in only two of the prior five years. Glaucous Gull average in both months. Black-legged Kittiwake: the Count record one of only five in the 62 year history, but a single bird was recorded on January 14th, first in six years. A few Snowy Owls returned after last year's absence, only two recorded in January. Reading back through the previous five years, there were 0, 7, 5, 1, and 1. Long-eared Owl: average against better than average. Short-eared Owl down, average in January. Northern Saw-whet Owl: absent in both months, recorded only twice in January in six years. No Bohemian Waxwings either month, reported only in 1989. The number of Northern Shrike reports this year is high for the six years, good in January too. American Tree Sparrow Count numbers about half of the 62 year average, no basis for comparison in January. Lapland Longspur seen this year, last, and in 1985 only, January numbers small but not out of line: maximum counts for the six year period (from this year back): 4, 4, 7, 0, 0, 8. Snow Bunting numbers average, the 200 on January 24th similar to most recent years but well below the 1300 count on January 1, 1990. Pine Grosbeak: absent both months, occurred only in 1986 and 1990. No crossbills either month: White-winged Crossbills recorded last year, in 1986, and in 1987; no Reds for at least six years. No redpolls either month, I hope the end of a four year low. Consider the maximum numbers, again working back from this year: 0, 1, 0, 1, 400, 159. Pine Siskins few and far between, a few widely scattered reports in January. But consider in this regard the banding reports from Brooks in the Southern Tier: none banded this year against 358 last! Mrs. Brooks adds that the 13 new bands, 20 repeats, and seven returns for 22 days of banding represented her lowest January total in 17 years of banding. Evening Grosbeak: recovering in January as well.

What are we to make from all this? The data very tentatively suggest that half-hardies have been encouraged by the recent series of mild winters. The records are still less clear about winter visitors. Are they staying to the north of us because of milder weather, better food crops, less competition? Or are they simply missing this region as they retreat? On one hand a birder from Ottawa tells me that they have drawn a blank on northern species; on another I hear of numbers of Bohemian Waxwings east of us. Speculation about such answers calls for analysis of much more complete data and from a much wider area than our own.

Other reports of interest: The almost twofold increase from last year in the Federation Waterfowl Count is certainly to be welcomed by birders as well as hunters as is the fact that there is a positive increment of 167% for the nationally threatened diving ducks. The overall numbers are still below those of 1987, but, unlike recent past history in other parts of the country, they are moving in the right direction. After years with a single bird, the local population of Mute Swans has suddenly doubled and possibly even increased fourfold. Does this represent a release of domestic birds? Merlin and Peregrine both turned up within the Buffalo city limits. But the strange record of the year to date has to be the Forster's Tern that spent from January 3rd to 6th in Dunkirk Harbor. Note in this regard the Date Guide occurrence range for this western species: August 3rd to November 8th! — G. Rising

Literature cited:

Andrle, Robert F., et al., eds. *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario*. Fifth Edition. Buffalo, Buffalo Ornithological Society, 1983.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1984) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- * - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates previously documented breeding area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	1	1	Ft. Erie, Ont	Andrie, Brock
"	1,2	1	Niagara Falls	Many observers
"	3-5	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers et al
Pied-billed Grebe	1,2	1	Ft. Erie, Ont	Andrie, Holmes et al
"	5-27	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Many observers
"	15	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Andrie et al
Horned Grebe	5,6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Rising et al
"	13	1	Niag. Falls, Ont	Watson
D.-crest. Cormorant	1	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	7	1	Tonawanda Twp	D Anna
"	13	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Watson
Great Blue Heron	2,13	41,43	Motor Is, Niag. R.	Watson
"	15	46	"	Andrie et al
"	17	29	"	Hess
Bl.cr. Night-Heron	10	1	Buffalo	D'Anna, Brock
Tundra Swan	13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	D&D Suggs
"	27	2	Sunset Bay	Cohen, D'Anna et al
<u>Mute Swan</u>	1	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Watson, D Anna et al
"	2,15	1	"	Holmes, Andrie et al
"	26	1	Ft Erie, Ont	Watson
Snow Goose	5	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	6	1	"	Rising, Galas
"	8	1	"	Holmes (EABC)
"	19,28	1,2	"	Rew
Wood Duck	5	1	Cassadaga	Watson et al
"	8,19	1	Java	Holmes
Green-winged Teal	5	1	Charlotte Twp	Watson et al
"	26	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
Northern Pintail	1-6	1-3	Niag. Falls, Ont	Many observers
"	19	6	Niagara River	Cohen et al
Northern Shoveler	1	1	Buffalo Harbor	D'Anna et al
Gadwall	3	29	Niag. Falls, Ont	Chilton, Schaffner
Canvasback	2	3000	Niagara River	Holmes (EABC)
"	3	2000	Ft Erie, Ont	Chilton, Schaffner
Redhead	1	50	Chippawa, Ont	Andrie, Brock
"	1,3	86,90	Ft Erie, Ont	Watson, Chilton et al
"	8	10	Dunkirk Harbor	Holmes (EABC)
"	19	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Redhead	19	130	Niagara River	Cohen et al
"	19,31	22,8	Celoron	Sundell
"	21	45	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna
Ring-necked Duck	1,22	1,2	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	4	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher
"	13,22	1	Ft Niagara SP	Watson, D&D Suggs
"	15	14	Cayuga Is, Niag R.	Andrie et al
Lesser Scaup	19	3	Niagara River	Cohen et al
"	26	6	Ft Erie, Ont	Watson
"	27	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Cohen et al
Surf Scoter	1	1	Ft Niagara SP	Lange, Watson
White-winged Scoter	1	2	Bertie Twp, Ont	D'Anna et al
"	1-31	1	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby et al
"	19	35	Porter&Wilson Twps	D'Anna
Hooded Merganser	1,13	18,5	Niag Falls, Ont	Watson et al
"	5	1,4	Cassadaga, Chaut. L.	Watson et al
"	27	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Cohen et al
Ruddy Duck	12	1	Ft Erie, Ont	D'Anna
"	19	1	Barcelona	Rew
Bald Eagle	1,6	1ad.	Queenston, Ont	Andrie, Roberson et al
"	26	1	Niag-on-Lake	D'Anna
Northern Harrier	6,15	6,8	Porter Twp	Roberson, Chilton et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	1-31	10 reports	throughout region	
Cooper's Hawk	1-25	9 reports	throughout WNY	
Rough-legged Hawk	1-30	8 other rep	throughout region	"
"	6,22	5,5	Wilson-Lockport	D&D Suggs
<u>Merlin</u>	14,16,18,30	1	Buffalo	Schopp et al
"	16,18,20,30	1	Buffalo	Suggs et al
"	18	1	Buffalo	D'Anna et al
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	15	1	Buffalo	D'Anna
"	16	1	Buffalo	Holmes et al
American Coot	1,2,15	1	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Watson et al
"	5,8,27	20,30,15	Dunkirk Harbor	Many observers
Purple Sandpiper	1-15	1-7	Niagara Falls	Many observers
Dunlin	13	2	Goat Island	Watson
"	13	1	"	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	1	"	Andrie et al
Little Gull	1	1	Ft Erie, Ont	Watson et al
"	5,9	1	Barcelona Harbor	Watson, Sundell et al
"	19	1	Niagara River	Cohen et al
"	25,29	1,1	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
<u>C. Black-headed Gull</u>	6	1	Queenston, Ont	Roberson et al
"	12	1	"	D'Anna
"	15	1	"	Bellerby
"	15	1	"	Chilton, Schaffner
Bonaparte's Gull	3,29	10,900,830	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
"	19	15,000	Niagara River	Cohen et al
Iceland Gull	1-26	1	Adam Beck Hydro	Many observers
"	19	2	Niagara River	Cohen et al
"	19	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Chilton
<u>L. Black-b. Gull</u>	1	1	Niag. Power Proj.	Andrie, Brock
"	1	1	Niag. Falls, Ont	Watson, Rising, D'Anna
"	3	1	"	Chilton, Schaffner

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Glaucous Gull	1,6	1,1	Adam Beck Hydro	Watson, Roberson et al
"	3,6	2,1	Niag. Falls, Ont	Chilton, Roberson et al
<u>Black-leg. Kittiwake</u>	14	1	Buffalo	D'Anna
Forster's Tern	3	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu, Klayborn
"	4	1	"	Mosher
"	5	1	"	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	6	1	"	Rising, Galas
Snowy Owl	1	1	Porter Twp	D'Anna et al
"	8,13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher, Holmes, Suggs et al
Long-eared Owl	1,12	3,2	Elma Twp	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	21	6	Rock Pt. PP	D&D Suggs
Short-eared Owl	1-15	1-9	Porter Twp	Many observers
"	27	4	Sheridan Twp	Budniewski
Red-headed Wdpkr.	6	1	Ft Niagara SP	D'Anna
Red-bellied Wdpkr	1-30	8 reports	throughout WNY	
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	25	1	Bethany Twp.(f)	D'Anna, Potter
Northern Flicker	6	5	East Aurora	Holmes
Horned Lark	3	100	Newfane Twp.	W&M Barber
"	5	70	Somerset Twp.	Chilton
"	13	77	Ridgeway Twp.	Andrie, Gregory
<u>E.a. alpestris</u>	13	3	Ridgeway Twp.	Andrie, Gregory
American Crow	24	552	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	8 Reports	Throughout WNY	
Red-br. Nuthatch	1	2	Queenston, Ont.	Watson et al
"	1-31	1-2	Niagara Falls(f)	Roberson
"	9	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Carolina Wren	1-31	6 Reports	Erie Co. & Niagara R.	
Winter Wren	1	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
Golden-cr. Kinglet	1	5	East Aurora	Holmes
Eastern Bluebird	6-31	5	East Aurora	Holmes et al
"	12	3	East Aurora	D'Anna, Holmes
"	15	2	Sheridan Twp.	Budniewski
"	28	1	Pomfret Twp.	Budniewski
"	28	4	Pomfret Twp.	Rew
American Robin	1	100	Queenston, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	13	225	Hamburg Twp.	D&D Suggs
Gray Catbird	24,29,30	1,2,1	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	Grand Island	Burch
"	1-31	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	2	2	Queenston, Ont.	Holmes (EABC)
"	11	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Chilton
Northern Shrike	1-30	12 Reports	Throughout region	
Yellow-r. Warbler	5,27	1,6-8	Portland Twp.	Watson, D'Anna
Rufous-s. Towhee	7,12	1	Orchard Park(f)	Holmes, Saville et al
"	20	1	Westfield Twp.(f)	D'Anna, Vernon
Song Sparrow	1-31	4	Eden Twp.(f)	Andrie
Swamp Sparrow	13	5	Wainfleet Twp., Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
White-thr. Sparrow	1-30.	8 max.	East Aurora	Holmes
"	13	8	Evans Twp.	D&D Suggs
White-cr. Sparrow	5	1	Pomfret Twp.	Mosher
"	6	9	Lewiston Twp.	D'Anna
"	13	1	Wainfleet Twp., Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
Lapland Longspur	5	4	Somerset Twp.	Chilton

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Lapland Longspur	6	2	Wilson Twp.	D'Anna
Snow Bunting	6	35	Somerset Twp.	D&D Suggs
"	6	60	Wilson Twp.	D'Anna
"	13	20	Ridgeway Twp.	Andrie, Gregory
"	24	200	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Red-w. Blackbird	12	1	Wheatfield Twp.(f)	Potter
"	13,14	1,2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	13,20,21	4,5,6	Wainfleet Twp.,Ont.(f)	D'Anna,Watson,Suggs et al
"	26	1	Amity Lake(f)	Pitzrick
"	31	11	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Rusty Blackbird	13,21,16	12,12,4	Wainfleet Twp,Ont.(f)	D'Anna,Suggs,Watson et al
"	14	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Brown-headed Cowbird	1-31	1-30	Tonawanda Twp.(f)	Hess
"	6	50	Niagara River	Rising,Galas
"	6,12,20,29	7,14,159,74	Tonawanda	Watson
"	8	1	Beaver Meadow WS(f)	Holmes
"	23	150	Wheatfield Twp.(f)	D'Anna
"	25	15	Buffalo	Hess
"	30	98	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Purple Finch	3	2	Scio	Pitzrick
"	5	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	29	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
Pine Siskin	1,6,17,20	1,2,1,1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	4-31	4	Niag.-on-the-Lake(f)	Bellerby
"	6	3	Point Gratiot	Rising, Galas
American Goldfinch	1	50	Beaver Meadow WS	Watson et al
"	1,9	30,30	East Aurora	Holmes
"	1-31	35	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	21	54	Wainfleet Twp,Ont(f)	D&D Suggs
Evening Grosbeak	1-31	7 rep.-8max.	E&S of Buffalo	

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue112

Total for year112

Other species observed in January: Canada Goose, Amer. Black Duck, Mallard, American Wigeon, Greater Scaup, Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-br. Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Amer. Kestrel, Ring-neck. Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Gr. Black-b. Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, E. Screech Owl, Gr. Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Bl-cap. Woodpecker, White-br. Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Amer. Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch, House Sparrow.

Report of the January 1991 Waterfowl Count

Summarized below are the results of the Thirty-seventh Annual Waterfowl Count in Region #1 of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. The count was scheduled for the period January 12, 1990 through January 20, 1990. January 13th was selected as the target date.

Results of the Count in all Regions of the Federation will be summarized in The Kingbird.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Common Loon	1	Average
Pied-billed Grebe	1	Below Average
Horned Grebe	2	Below Average
Double-Crested Cormorant	2	4th Time Reported
Tundra Swan	1	Below Average
Mute Swan	3	4th Time Reported
Snow Goose	1	6th time reported
Canada Goose	976	7th Highest
Wood Duck	1	Average for 27 Years
Amer. Black Duck	152	Lowest on Record
Mallard	5503	2nd highest on Record
Mallard X Black	26	
Gadwall	21	Average
American Wigeon	17	Below Average
Canvasback	3430	3rd Highest in 15 Years
Redhead	121	Average
Ring-necked Duck	15	Highest on Record
Greater Scaup	3579	5th Highest on Record
Lesser Scaup	159	Highest on Record
Oldsquaw	4915	5th Highest on Record
White-winged Scoter	151	7th Highest on Record
Common Goldeneye	2334	4th Lowest on Record
Bufflehead	191	Average
Hooded Merganser	7	Average
Common Merganser	4288	Average
Red-breasted Merganser	699	3rd Highest on Record
Ruddy Duck	1	11th Time Recorded
American Coot	43	Average
Unidentified	132	

Total	26972	10th Highest on Record
Number of Species	28	1960,1987,1991

The following are the areas covered and the compilers for each area.

- A - Lake Ontario, Pt. Breeze to Olcott - Wavel Barber
- B - Lake Ontario, Olcott to Ft Niagara - Walter Klabunde
- C - Ft Niagara to base of Falls, US side - William Watson
- D - Niagara-on-the-Lake to base of Horseshoe Falls, Canadian side - Mike Zebehazy
- E - Buffalo North Harbor to Goat Is., Niagara Falls, NY - R. Andrie
- F - Peace Bridge to rim of Horseshoe Falls, Canadian side - Don Roberson
- G - Grand Island - Karen Renning
- H - Lake Erie, Buffalo South Harbor to Silver Creek - David Suggs
- I - Lake Erie, Silver Creek to Pennsylvania state line - Fran Rew
- J - Jamestown & Chautauqua Lake - Robert Sundell
- K - Olean & Salamanca - Steve Eaton
- L - Allegany County - Lou Burton
- M - Batavia - David Keller
- N - Oak Orchard & Tonawanda Wildlife Management Areas - Don Endres, Jr.
- O - Iroquois Nation Wildlife Refuge - Sharon Sisti
- P - Towns of Amherst, Clarence & Cheektowaga - Bill Burch

Q - Delaware Park & Forest Lawn Cemetery (Bflo) - Ellen Schopp
R - Buffalo South Parks - Charles Halvorsen

Many thanks to the compilers and all others who participated in this project.
Wavel Barber

Niagara Loop Trip
January 6, 1991

A search on Friday had revealed no Snowy Owls on the waterfront (although a fisherman reported one at the Small Boat Harbor) so we proceeded to Ft. Erie and the river. This was an overcast day in the mid-20's and the wind was low enough so that stretches of the river were smooth. The mute swan was in the canal under the Peace Bridge, according to one of our 18 participants. At Ft. Erie 100 Bonaparte's Gulls were flying and more than that were sitting in mid-river at 9:00 a.m. A Ruddy Duck (seen by a few) and a Common Loon (seen by all) were in the river along with the usual flocks of Canada Geese, Mallard and Black Ducks. Further along the river were several flocks of Canvasbacks totalling 4000, among which were 100 Red Heads. About 3700 Common Mergansers were mainly in two flocks. Also seen were a scattering of Buffleheads and Goldeneyes.

On the pier upstream from the Canadian Control Structure sat a second-year Glaucous Gull among the commoner gulls. Below the structure two Glaucous Gulls were flying; a first year and an adult. Purple sandpipers were absent at the Dufferin Island overlook. (This is reached by using the parking spaces on the upstream end of the Dufferin loop road and then walking to the river walk and proceeding downstream.) However one Purple Sandpiper was found at the Greenhouse overlook, feeding on the rock bar slightly downriver from the overlook. By now we had found 14 Gadwall, 3 American Wigeon, and in the gorge below the Falls, 3 Greater Scaup, a Horned Grebe and a D.C. Cormorant.

At the Sir Adam Beck overlook the only find was a good one - an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull sitting quietly on the far shore, affording a good comparison with nearby Herring Gulls. Kayo Roy came by and showed how he extended his coverage here by driving 200 yards downstream to the Hydro parking lot on the left, and then walking over to the railing.

At the Queenston boat launch area some good news from Canadian birders started us, including Don Roberson with his newly-repaired knee, hiking upstream past the abutments of the old suspension bridge to the first large open viewing area. Sure enough, among the flying Bonaparte's was an adult Black-headed Gull, looking like an oversize Bony (20% greater wingspread) and unmistakable because of the dark flash from its nearly-black underwing pattern. It often flew within 100 feet, close enough to show the red color of its heavy bill. This was at 3:15 p.m. A few minutes later the Bald Eagle (about which we had been told) was seen sitting in a tree near the gorge rim. It arose and flew over our heads. It was a sub-adult with white head and (according to Art) traces of dark feathers in its white tail. It was said to have a blue marker in one wing.

The time was approaching for the Short-eared Owls to show up in a field about 8 miles N.E. of Lewiston, NY. Accordingly, eight of us went to the intersection of Youngstown Road and Dickersonville Road where we watched three Northern Harriers finish their day patrol over the large mowed field. At 4:25 p.m. nine Short-eared Owls appeared, possibly coming from the tall grass behind the farmhouse just to the west. They were slow to start feeding, perhaps waiting out a short snow flurry. They then flew to the larger adjacent field at Porter Center Road and Youngstown Rd. to feed. Although darkness was approaching we had fairly good views although not as good as on Thursday when the light was brighter and they flew close enough so we could hear them calling. This ended a good birding trip, but we should add that one party left us earlier for the Niagara Falls airport where they saw one of the three Snowy Owls there.

Bill Burch and Art Schaffner

**Censusing the Williamsville Glen:
a Call for Assistance**

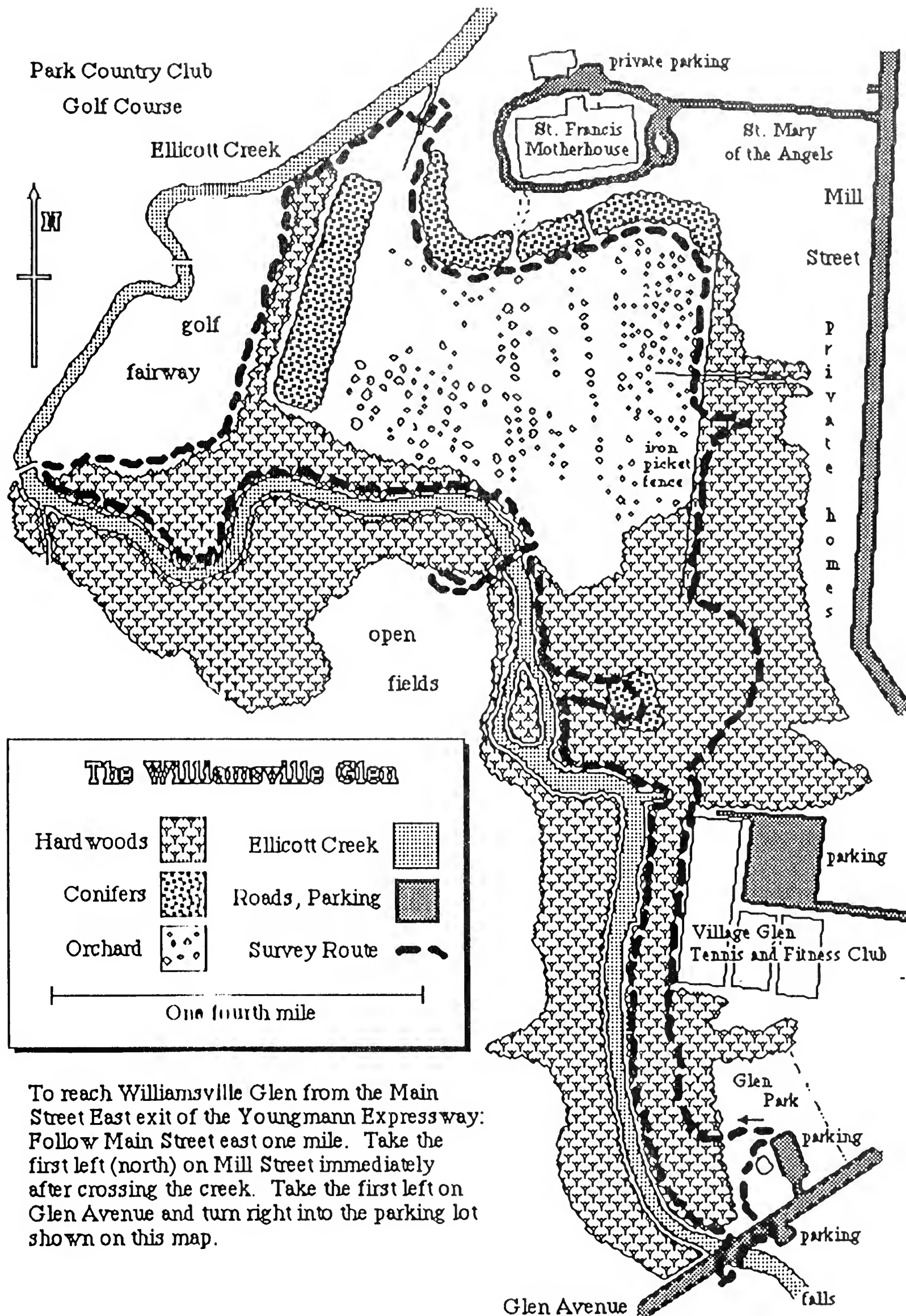
The Williamsville Glen is a quite remarkable migrant trap. Located as it is within a quarter mile of the center of the Town of Williamsville in a heavy density suburban population area, it seems to serve a role like that of Central Park in New York City as a stopping off place for migrating passerines. Despite its proximity to Main Street and the associated traffic, the glen itself provides a quiet retreat with, as the map shows, a rich mix of habitat. When you enter the hardwoods from Glen Park, you quickly leave the outside world behind. And the birds are there: species lists rise from the 30s in April into the 70s in mid-May with as many as 23 warbler species included. Last year's species total for the spring migration was 102.

During each of the past two springs I have censused the Williamsville Glen, Peter Yoerg joining me in that effort last year. That coverage has been reported in two *Prothonotary* articles: 55, 6 (June 1989): 68-70 and 56, 6 (June 1990): 73-74. This year I invite other B.O.S. members to join in this effort in order to provide more thorough coverage, especially during the peak migration period extending from late April through all of May. Those who can visit the glen on weekdays can make a special contribution.

The accompanying map shows the general route I have followed through the glen in an attempt to provide reasonably comparable coverage. The route is recommended rather than mandated with departures to follow up unusual calls especially appropriate. It takes from two to three hours to bird this area reasonably intensively and the best way to do so is with at least one partner. That way one records as others identify and count. As the birds are more active in the early morning, in early May the hours from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. daylight time are best. As the month progresses even earlier hours avoid the increasing warmth. Especially during April the glen has much standing water from creek overflow: high shoes or ankle high boots are recommended at this time.

Special check-lists are being prepared for use on this project based on records from past years. These will be made available at society meetings, but anyone unable to attend those meetings and wishing copies may contact me directly by phone (689 8301) or mail (295 Robinhill Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221). Recorders should make duplicate copies, one to forward to me and the other to send to the B.O.S. compiler. It is important that accurate counts of individuals be made whenever possible.

I plan to continue to census the glen myself this spring at least once each week and more often during migration peaks. Anyone who wishes to join me on any of those walks is welcome to call. — Gerry Rising



Results of the 1990 B.O.S. Birdathon:

To everyone's utter amazement, the Roadrunners do it again! Due to uncontrollable circumstances (namely the reprehensible procrastination of yours truly) the publication of the detailed results of the third annual Little Biddy Birdathon have been a tad tardy. Apologies, birders -- but better late than never (!?!).

Well, as most of you know by now, those rascally Roadrunners won first place for the third year in a row. The determined Roadrunners' (better known as Dick Collins, Joe DiDomenico, Gerry Rising and Mike Galas) planned strategy proved a success, taking the time and energy to chart a frantic birdwatching course to include a variety of habitats which, in turn, would harvest a wide variety of birds. It worked (and we're sick of it, I might add). Their efforts paid off with the team netting not only the highest number of species overall (95), but also the highest number of warbler species (14) and tied with the Don't Whip Poor Wills for the highest number of double pointers (6 species).

Word has it that some other teams are somewhat disgruntled (and bored?) with the Roadrunners constantly snatching the coveted Rubber Ducky Award. Handicapping is seriously being considered, Roadrunners. How about ear plugs for those guys next year!

All kidding aside, the Roadrunners truly deserve our congratulations for a job well done. They worked hard for first place and earned it. (Just wait until next year though.) In fact, ALL teams and team members deserve a round of applause. The participation was great -- it keeps the event fun and challenging. Let's keep it up.

Again, thanks to the Birdathon Committee for not quitting once their team got rained out: Sharon Sisti, Roberta McDonald, H.M. Bateman and Alec Humann. Ellen Schopp too, she's on a different team though.

Results of the 1990 Little Biddy Birdathon:

A total of eleven teams participated. Out of the eleven, only one team was rained out completely, the Yellow-bellied Saps. A total of 151 total species were seen, 23 species of warblers and 31 double pointers (birds seen by one team only).

1. First Place: "Roadrunners": Dick Collins, Joe DiDomenico, Gerry Rising and Mike Galas; Date: 5/19/90; Place: "B.O.S. Territory"; Total species: 95 (14 warblers and 6 double pointers totalling 114 points).

Doubles: Sharp-shinned hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Water Pipit, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow

2. Second Place: "Oak Orchard Warbler Gleaners": Gail Seaman, Dave Keller and Don Endres; Date 5/19/90; Place: Iriquois Wildlife Refuge; Total species: 78 (11 warblers and 5 double pointers totalling 95 points).

Doubles: Cooper's Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Cliff Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cerulean Warbler

3. Third Place: "Don't Whip Poor Wills": Willie D'anna, Betsy Potter, Bill Watson, Ellen Schopp and Dave Cooper; Date 5/12/90; Place: Iriquois Wildlife Refuge and vicinity; Total species: 81 (4 warblers and 6 double pointers totalling 89 points).

Doubles: Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Northern Harrier, Broad-winged Hawk, Solitary Sandpiper, Red-headed Woodpecker

4. Fourth Place: "Southtown Sharpies": Barbara Walker, Fran Rew and Bob Andrie; Date 5/21/90; Place: Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach; Total species: 73 (12 warblers and 3 double pointers totalling 88 points).

Doubles: Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Pheasant, Cape May Warbler

5. Fifth Place: "Leisurely Ladies Listers League": Fran Rew, Audrey Horbett, Marian Dornhaffer and Barb Walker; Date 5/15/90; Place: Tifft Nature Preserve; Total species: 61 (8 warblers and no double pointers totalling 70 points).

6. Sixth Place: "Tweeters Five": Alice McKale, Mary Saville, Linda Holmes, Margaret Stewart and Jane Heyer; Date 5/22/90; Place: Tifft Nature Preserve; Total species: 59 (10 warblers and 1 double pointer totalling 69 points).

Doubles: Olive-sided Flycatcher

7. Seventh Place: (No name): William C. Vaughan, Dennis and Susan Gralak and William and Julie Horne; Date 5/19/90; Place: Tifft Nature Preserve; Total species: 56 (7 warblers and 2 double pointers totalling 64 points).

Doubles: Common Nighthawk, Mourning Warbler

Eighth place was a tie-

8. Eighth Place: "Laidback Lawyers": Kenneth Cohen and Bill Hultman; Date 5/26/90; Place: Cedar Street, Tonawanda Reservation and Iriquois Refuge; Total species: 58 (4 warblers and 1 double pointer totalling 63 points).

Doubles: Brown Creeper

8. Eighth Place: "Juncos": Dave Junkin; Date 5/14/90; Place: Bliss N.Y. and Beaver Meadow Sanctuary; Total species: 50 (9 warblers and 4 double pointers totalling 63 points).

Doubles: Upland Sandpiper, Solitary Vireo, Dark-eyed Junco (of course), Purple Finch

Note: Dave Junkin should really have been disqualified since he was a team of one person only, but since he wasn't in contention for the Rubber Ducky Award this year, the committee voted to keep his entry - Thanks for sticking in there, Dave!

9. Ninth Place: (Another no name): Hans Kunze, Marian Bee and Mike Buccieri; Date 5/19/90; Place: Beaver Meadow Audubon Center and Tifft Nature Preserve; Total Species: 56 (9 warblers and no double pointers totalling 62 points).

10. Tenth Place: "Ken's Coots": Ken Cohen, Richard and Jamie Balus, Laurie Leman and William Scott; Date 5/27/90; Place: Fort Erie, Ontario to Erie (Waverly) Beach; Total species: 47 (5 warblers and 3 double pointers totalling 55 points).

Doubles: Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Turnstone, Bonaparte's Gull

-- Yours truly, H.M. Bateman

Presenting the 'In thing for spring'...

THE 1991 LITTLE BIDDY BIRDATHON



WHEN & WHERE:

You choose the day, any day between May 1 and May 31. This year there will be no restrictions on the location you choose other than that it must be within the B.O.S. territory. We will choose the time. Birding must take place between 7:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. Three hours are all you get. You are also allowed one pre-picked rain or snow date. If it precipitates on both of your days, that's just the way it goes!

NOTE: You CANNOT bird on both days and then pick the better day.

TEAMS:

Each team must consist of no less than two participants nor no more than five. The leader of each team must be a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

SCORING:

ALL BIRDS MUST BE SEEN, not just heard. Absolutely no electronic devices can be used during the birdathon to attract bird species. All species listed on the final report form must be verified by the team leader (who must be a member of the BOS), and one other member of the team during the allotted birdathon time. In other words each bird must be seen by at least

two people. Other team members need not be BOS members.

All warbler species count as two points, non-warblers one point. Any species not sighted by any other team counts double (warblers 4 points, non-warblers 2 points). In the case of a tie, the team with the most species of birds will win. If that still doesn't decide the winner, whoever has the most species of warblers will win.

The winning team will be announced at the BOS annual June picnic at Tifft Nature Preserve following the business meeting. During this time, they will receive their prizes.

HOW TO REGISTER:

There will be a one dollar participation fee. The members of each team should give their dollar to the team leader who will send in a check with the team's registration form. Please make all checks payable to the Buffalo Ornithological Society in United States funds. All registration forms must be filled out and sent at the very latest by the twenty-seventh of April to:

Alec Humann
72 Lancaster Avenue
Buffalo, N.Y. 14222.



If there are any questions, call Alec at 885-2998 or H.M. Bateman at 886-3980.

Information Requested

Mark Kandel, Wildlife Biologist for the New York State Department of Environment Conservation, has requested information on confirmed sightings of Ruddy Turnstones in the Buffalo Harbor area between June 10, 1990 and July 27, 1990. Any BOS member which records for such sightings can send the information to Mr. Kandel at the DEC office: 600 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Congratulations to New ACTIVE members:

Tom Insalaco
&
Ron Lange

Welcome to New Associate Member:

Marg Smith
500 Mill Street
Williamsville, NY 14221
Tel: 626-5503

BOS MEETINGS

- Mar. 13: Marian Shannon will discuss Wildlife Possibilities of Vacant Railroad Rights-of-Way in Buffalo.
- Mar. 27: Bill Burch presents an informative program on Telescopes and other optical considerations for birders.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15 inclusive, except the fourth Wednesdays in November and December, at 8:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

- Mar. 16: SATURDAY. Lake Ontario plains. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Tops Market in Lewiston. Leader: Willie D'Anna (1-731-4348).
- Mar. 24: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for spring waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World, 0.1 mi. east of Main & Transit. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297).
- Apr. 14: Sunday. BOS April bird count.

- Apr. 21: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World, 0.1 mi. east of Main & Transit. We will join the GOS at 9:30 at the Braddock Bay Park shelter. Leaders: Mike Zebehazy (662-6987) and Bob Spahn (GOS).
- Apr. 27: SATURDAY. Hawk migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 am at the Howard Johnson parking lot where I-90 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Hwy 62) in Niagara Falls, NY. Or go directly to Beamer Conservation Area. This is 30 mi. into Canada on QEW, on escarpment above Grimsby.
- May 5: Sunday. Tifft Nature Center. Meet at 7:00 am in Tifft parking Lot. This is a half-day trip for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Bill Watson (695-2820).
- May 12: Sunday. Williamsville Glen Park for warblers. Meet at 7:00 am in the Park parking lot off Glen Ave. (In Williamsville go east on Main St., cross Ellicott creek, turn left on Mill then left on Glen Ave.) Leader: Gery Rising (689-8301). A half-day trip.
- May 19: Sunday. May BOS Bird Count. For a territory contact the compiler, Morgan Jones (433-5687).
- May 26: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Vermont & Bustl or at 6:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought. For further information contact the field trip chairman, Bill Burch 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler: Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer:
Jane Heyer
296 Westchester BLVD
Kenmore, NY 14217
875-3318

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$.50 per copy.

Editor: Charles Halvorsen
212 Main Street
West Seneca, NY 14224

REGISTRATION FORM

(For the Buffalo Ornithological Society's fourth annual
Little Biddy Birdathon)

Team Name (Optional): _____

Team Leader (must be a member of the B.O.S.):

_____ Phone #: _____

Birding Buddies: _____

Birding Date (1st Choice) : _____

Rain Date (One Only): _____

Time: (between 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.)

Location: (anywhere within the BOS territory)

Mail Form By April 27 to: Alec Humann
72 Lancaster Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Questions?: Alec Humann 885-2998; H.M. Bateman 886-3980

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Buffalo Museum of Science
Buffalo, New York 14211

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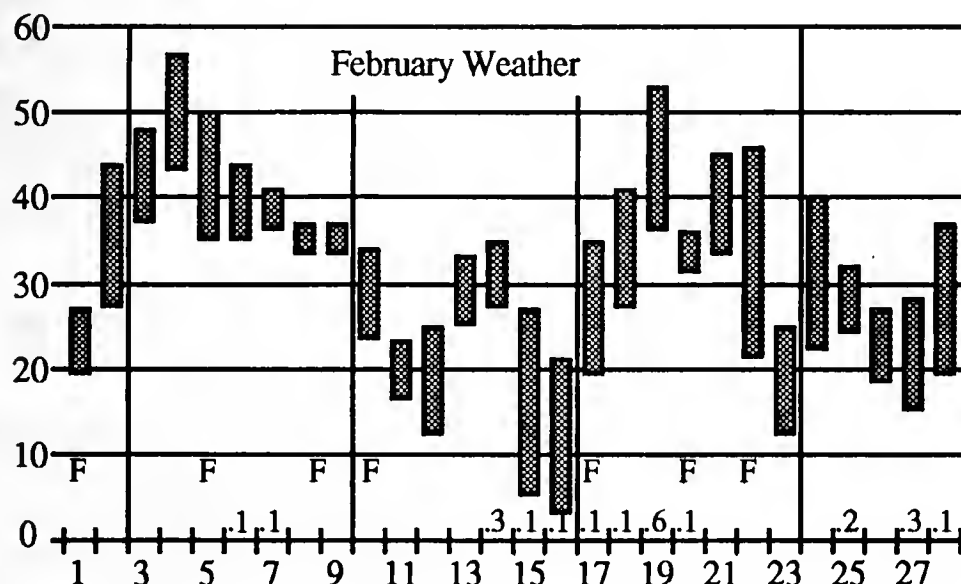
Volume 57

March 1991

Number 3

THE MONTH: February 1991

For birders February represents the true "dead of winter," but it is hard to describe this February in those terms. Temperatures averaged just below freezing, 30.6° F, but single digit lows at mid-month were bracketed by two highs in the 50s. The 57° achieved on the 4th tied a 101 year old record for that date.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 2nd was a Saturday, the 3rd a Sunday. Data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

followed by an uncomfortable mixture of snow, freezing rain, and rain for two days. This was replaced in turn by two days, the 15th and 16th of cold with strong winds that produced bitter wind chill. Snow fell on each of the last six days of the month as well.

Despite the additional open water, not a single loon or grebe was reported this month for the first time in at least five years. On the other hand there were

And the overall average was 6° above normal.

Normally Lake Erie is frozen by the end of January, but this year it did not freeze, leaving the city open to blizzards that thankfully never materialized. In fact snowfall was again below normal, the 16.1 inches this month 2 inches below average. So far this winter snowfall is only 61% (48.8 of the expected 80.4 inches.) Total precipitation was 2.1 inches, .3 inch below normal.

Good news, but this was still February. The fronts of the 8th and 10th produced lake effect snow through the 13th,

several reports of cormorants as opposed to only one report in the previous four years. The count of Motor Island Great Blue Herons remained at 26 through the month, near last year's high of 28 (which dropped to 15 late in the month) and the previous year's 31. Other waterfowl reports were thin, but the 29 Tundra Swans at Iroquois on the 28th suggest better things to come.

Counts along the Lake Ontario plains indicate a good year for Northern Harrier and an average year for Rough-legged Hawk. The Merlin continued through the month at the university Main Street campus.

Bellerby's continuing fly-by counts of Bonaparte's Gulls at Niagara-on-the-Lake include a maximum of 153 on the 3rd, dropping off until mid-month when he stopped counting. After that, he reports, only a few individuals could be found at Lewiston. Little Gull reports are well down from last year's remarkable counts, but white-winged gull numbers, although small, are at about the average for the previous four years.

Our Canadian hosts' annual owl trip again proved their hospitality: this year displayed 34 owls of 6 species including a Snowy Owl and a Northern Saw-whet Owl. The season's maximum of 4 Snowy Owls was recorded at the Niagara Falls Airport on the 3rd.

A Common Raven was reported from Bliss on the 18th, and it was certainly a good year for Northern Shrikes with 12 reports, triple the best of the past four years.

The usual scattered Eastern Bluebird reports were turned in. Vivian Pitzrick of Amity Lake noted with hers that she attracted the bluebirds to her home by clipping sumac fruit-bearing branches in the fall and tying them to a stake near the feeders in her yard to make them look like the growing shrub.

Two Chipping Sparrow reports in mid-month, one at Silver Creek, one in Cherry Township, represent the first February reports for the region in at least five years, and a Field Sparrow late in the month at Beaver Meadow represents the second in that same time span.

The three species of open fields were only reported a few times. Walt Listman found all three near his cottage in Yates on the 16th: 125 Horned Larks, 50 Lapland Longspurs, and 50 Snow Buntings. Younger Buffalo birders will probably not recognize this name: Walt is without question the finest Rochester area field observer over the past fifty years.

I detect no change in the winter finch picture presented in the January report. These birds were few and far between: no Pine Grosbeaks, one Purple Finch, no crossbills, no Common Redpolls, one Pine Siskin. Evening Grosbeaks on the other hand were reported in fair numbers.

A number of other interesting records were submitted, but without yet providing necessary documentation. These included a Green-backed Heron in Sinking Ponds on the 23rd, the 2 Snow Geese (one blue phase) remaining in Dunkirk at least through the 2nd, and 1-4 Surf Scoters occasionally off Point Gratiot.

Two errors on the 1990 B.O.S. Christmas Count have been detected. No Fox Sparrow was seen; the single bird reported should be added to the Song Sparrow total. And the Iceland Gull count should be 2, not 15, with the other 13 included in the Herring Gull total. These each represent recording, not identification errors. — G. Rising

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1984) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- * - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates previously documented breeding area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
D.-crest. Cormorant	3,7	1,1	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
"	15,28	2,2	"	D Anna
"	22	1	Buffalo	Watson
Great Blue Heron	3,27	26,26	Motor Is. Niagara R.	Watson
Tundra Swan	10	2	Celeron	Sundell
"	28F	29	Iroquois NWR	W&M Barber
Wood Duck	3	1	Ft Erie, Ont	Lange (BOS)
"	3	1	Williamsville Glen	Watson
Mallard	3	793	Niagara Falls	Cohen et al
Northern Pintail	3	1	Ft Erie, Ont	Lange (BOS)
"	3,17	3	Niagara Falls	Cohen, D Anna et al
"	21F	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
Gadwall	3	75	Niagara Falls	Cohen et al
Redhead	20	100	Niagara River	Holmes
Greater Scaup	5	600	Wilson Twp	Roberson
White-winged Scoter	2	125	Olcott, Carlton Twp	D Anna et al
Hooded Merganser	23	1	Buffalo	Cohen et al
Bald Eagle	3	1	Queenston, Ont	Lange (BOS)
Northern Harrier	3	6	Niagara County	Cohen et al
"	5,10	6,5	Orleans&Niag. Co	Roberson et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	2	1	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
"	2	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
"	6,12	1,1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	16	1	Yates Twp	Listman
"	18	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
"	3	1	Grand Island	Cohen et al
"	6,11	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	16	1	Eden Twp	Andrie
*Red Shouldered Hawk	23F	1	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
Rough-legged Hawk	2	5,1	Yates, Porter	D Anna et al
"	10,16,24	4,4,4	Yates Twp	Roberson, Listman, Lange
"	24	1	Bertie Twp, Ont	D Anna, Farnan (BOS)
<u>Merlin</u>	21	1	Buffalo	Schopp
<u>Merlin</u>	26	1	Buffalo	D&D Suggs et al
Little Gull	5	1	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
"	23	2	Lewiston	Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	1-28	153max	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
Iceland Gull	3	2	Adam Beck Hydro	Lange (BOS)

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Iceland Gull	17	1	"	D Anna, Cooper
"	18	1	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
Glaucous Gull	3	2	Adam Beck Hydro	Roberson, Lange(BOS)
"	17	1	Niag-on-Lake	D Anna, Cooper
"	17	1	Niagara Falls	D Anna, Cooper
Snowy Owl	2,9,10	1,1,1	Niagara Falls	D Anna et al
"	3	4	Wheatfield Twp	Roberson, Lange(BOS)
"	24	1	Port Colborne, Ont	Barber, Farnan(BOS)
Long-eared Owl	9	3	Porter Twp	D Anna, Potter
"	16	1	Lewiston Twp	Roberson
"	24	3	Fort Colborne, Ont	D Anna, Farnan(BOS)
"	24	4-6	Rock Point PP	"
Short-eared Owl	2,3	2,1	Sheridan Twp	Budniewski, Mosher et al
"	10	1	Porter Twp	Roberson et al
"	24	24	Stevensville, Ont	Barber, Farnan(BOS)
"	24	2	Tates Twp	Lange
*Nor. Saw-whet Owl	19,20	1	Tiffit HP	Lange, Watson, Holmes
"	24	1	Rock Point PP	Barber, Farnan(BOS)
Red-headed Wdpr.	2	2	Lakeside Bch SP	D Anna et al
"	3	1	Ft Niagara SP	Cohen et al
Red-bellied Wdpr	1-28	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	3	1	Ft Niagara SP	Cohen et al
"	16	1	Tates Twp	Listman
"	18	1	Iroquois HWR	Watson
Horned Lark	16	125	Tates Twp	Listman
*Common Raven	18	1	Bliss	D&N Junkin
Tufted Titmouse	1-28	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	2	1	Lakeside Bch SP	D Anna et al
"	2-15	1	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
"	6,11	1	Niagara Falls(f)	Roberson
"	21,25,28	1,1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	23	2	Ft Niagara SP	Watson
"	24	1	Pomfret Twp	Moshers
Red-br. Nuthatch	2,6,8	1	Niagara Falls(f)	Roberson
Carolina Wren	3,5,14	1	Eden Twp	Andrie
Eastern Bluebird	4-26	5	East Aurora	Holmes
"	6,8,24	1,1,2	Amity Lake	V&R Pitzrick
"	2	1	Porter Twp	D Anna, Potter
Northern Mockingbird	1-28	1	Ft Erie, Ont	Sommerville
"	2	1	Hamburg Twp	Andrie
"	3	2	Grand Island	Cohen et al
Northern Shrike	2-24	12reports	throughout region	
*Chipping Sparrow	17,18	1	Silver Creek	D&L Neveu
"	16	1	Cherry Creek Twp	D&D Suggs
*Field Sparrow	23,26	1	Beaver Meadow WR	Cohen, Holmes et al
Song Sparrow	1-28	4	Eden Twp	Andrie
Swamp Sparrow	6,24	2,1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	18	1	Iroquois HWR	Watson
White-thr. Sparrow	1-28	4	Eden Twp	Andrie
"	11,18,27	12,8,8	East Aurora	Holmes
White-cr. Sparrow	16	1	Tates Twp(f)	Listman
"	24	3	Bertie Twp, Ont	D Anna, Yoerg
Lapland Longspur	16	50	Tates Twp	Listman

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Lapland Longspur	24	1	Ridgeway Twp	Lange
Snow Bunting	2	8	past Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
"	9	150	Allenberg Bog	Chistensen
"	16	50	Yates Twp	Listman
Red-w. Blackbird	6,7	5,4	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
"	7-28	1	Ft Erie, Ont	Sommerville
"	9	1	Niagara Twp	D Anna, Potter
"	17F,25	9,21	Tonawanda	Watson
"	21	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
"	25,26	7,105	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
Rusty Blackbird	27F	2	East Aurora	Holmes
*Common Grackle	21F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	21F,25	6,20	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
"	22-27	1	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
Brown-headed Cowbird	1-28	1-28	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
"	6,7,18	4,2,15	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
"	22,23	2	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
Purple Finch	1-28	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
Pine Siskin	23	1	Sommerset Twp	D Anna
America Goldfinch	1-28	20	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
Evening Grosbeak	1-28	50	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	1-28	3-38	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	1-28	1-30	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	3,16	20,60	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
"	8	25	Scio	Pitzrick

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded 112
 Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue 6
 Total for year 118

ERRATA

In the Prothonotary, Vol. 57, No. 1, January, 1991, In "Report of the 62nd B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count":

p. 7, line 4, ... 74 species should read: 73 species;

p. 7 (Territories and Observers) D. Canada...22 species should read: 42 species;

p. 9, line 23, Herring Gull - 8143, above ave. Iceland Gull - 15 (A,B) highest ever should read: Herring Gull - 8156, above ave. Iceland Gull - 2(A);

line 40, Fox Sparrow - 1(G) should be deleted;

line 41, Song Sparrow - 10 should read: Song Sparrow - 11;

In the Prothonotary, Vol. 57, No. 2, February, 1991, In "Noteworthy Records" pp 19-22, the column headings for month should read: Jan.

B.O.S. Niagara River Trip February 3, 1991

On a warm and clear day, at least for February, about 20 members and guests assembled for the trip. The group then headed north on the Niagara Parkway. The first stops in Fort Erie produced the usual winter birds plus a Northern Pintail across from the Anglican Church. The first surprise of the day was a male Wood Duck that was hidden on the river among Mallards and Canvasbacks.

A walk on the path and bridge across from Dufferin Island failed to turn up the Purple Sandpipers. Instead two out of season Dunlins were present. As expected most of the gulls had left the top of the falls and very little besides the ice bridge was in the gorge.

Sightings picked up again at the Sir Adam Beck power plant. Here among the commoner gulls were two immature Iceland Gulls and a Glaucous Gull. At Queenston, we did not see the Common Black-headed Gull, but the walk was more than compensated for by the spectacular fly-by of an adult Bald Eagle.

The group then decided to continue on to the Niagara Falls Airport to look for Snowy Owls. We were not disappointed as three were found.

Ron Lange
Ontario Rare Breeding Bird Program

We had a successful season in Niagara region last year (see report in the Prothonotary April 1990). There were 30 records of 19 different species of "rare" birds from 78 sites checked throughout the region - 2500 square kilometers most of which was thoroughly covered. Highlights were 2 pairs of Cooper's Hawks with young and a family of Ruddy Ducks. Neither of these species were found breeding in the Ontario Atlas years, 1981-85. Other good sightings in breeding season were: Loggerhead Shrike, Cerulean Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Hooded Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat. Missing however was even a single pair of Black Terns or Orchard Warbler despite careful surveys of previously known sites.

We were most pleased to receive important reports from B.O.S. members: Dr. R. Andrie, Dr. D. Cooper, M. Galas and A. Humann.

This is the last year of this program and we hope B.O.S. members will continue to send us reports of 1991 Canadian sightings (Box 1276, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. L0S 1J0 or 416-468-3961). The Canadian Wildlife Service is asking the O.R.B.B.P. to pay special attention to areas near the Great Lakes for a colonial marsh bird survey but all records of the rare birds we are seeking would be most appreciated.

Thank You

Gorden Bellierby
Co-ordinator Niagara Region
O.R.B.B.P.

William C. Vaughan Memorial Fund
Continues to Grow

The Buffalo Museum of Science reports that contributions continue to be received for the William C. Vaughan Memorial Fund. The Fund, initiated by generous donations from his family and friends, has been specifically endowed to annually fund a guest lecturer at the museum in the field of Ornithology. While the B.O.S. had initially received many contributions in Bill's name, the membership decided to pass all such donations along to the museum to become part of this Fund. All of us interested in the natural history of birds look forward to the implementation of this lecture series.

Meanwhile, contributions may still be made to the Fund, and all persons wishing to do so are urged to forward their contributions, payable to the "Buffalo Museum of Science" to:

William C. Vaughan Memorial Fund
Buffalo Museum of Science
1020 Humbolt Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

A BIG JANUARY - MY SECOND ATTEMPT

by Willie D'Anna

As Ellen Schopp stood back in order to observe the entire grove of pines, I moved carefully, peering intently into the canopy of each tree. Gradually, I became aware of Ellen's voice in the distance. Moving quickly into the open, I followed her pointing finger to observe my 100th species of the month - a dashing and very rare in winter, Merlin!

That was the highlight of this birding odyssey - an attempt to see as many species as possible in January, 1991. I finished at 105 species, a surprisingly high total and 9 species better than when I tried the same thing in 1988.

There were some obvious factors which helped me to fairly easily reach the century mark. Foremost of these would be the experience I gained from my earlier attempt as well as the experience of Dick Collins, Mike Galas, and Gerry Rising (see The Prothonotary, Vol. 55, No. 2). Also, the extremely mild winter which remained so until the 21st was very helpful. Thirdly, I was fortunate that so many people called me, usually quite promptly, and informed me of birds that I could add to the list.

In a big January there are several things you can do to improve your odds: (1) The most important thing is to realize that the number of birds and bird species will decrease rapidly as the month progresses. Thus, it is imperative to chase the "difficult" birds as early in the month as possible. (2) Inform as many birders as you can about your endeavor requesting information on the whereabouts of any birds which are still needed. (3) Related to no. (2), contact area Christmas Count compilers. Interestingly, this actually helped me very little this year as most of the counts were held on awful weather days which produced few unusual birds.

The criteria which I used for counting a species were the same as in 1988: (1) The species had to be within the B.O.S. study area and positively identified by myself by either sight or sound; (2) Verification reports required according to the B.O.S. Verification Date Guide, 1984, had to be acceptable to the B.O.S. Statisticians. This second criteria provides records for the society and lends added credibility to the list. I would encourage any birder to use the same standard for any of their B.O.S. lists. Because of these criteria I must note that my total is not, as of this writing, official. I have ten verification reports for the month which are pending review by the Statisticians.

As it unfolds the big January is an interesting and exciting event. I do not believe I am being modest when I say that I had extraordinary luck the first two weeks of the month. I was given very reliable information and my success rate on chases probably was near 75% (it dropped to under 20% in the last two weeks). I reached 99 species before mid-month but could only add six more after that.

Though I did not get a large species count on the first (50), many were of the difficult variety which gave me a great start. Among the tough ones were Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Snowy Owl, and Northern Shrike. On the fifth a trip to Chautauqua County provided a few misses, a few surprises, and a few important hits. Pileated Woodpecker, Evening Grosbeak, Brown Creeper, and Green-winged Teal were found where I did not expect to see them. In addition Wood Duck, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Horned Grebe, and Forster's Tern were successfully targeted. The tern, found by Terry Mosher, may have been the first winter record of that species and was one of the best birds of the month. My good fortune continued the following day in the Town of Porter and along the Niagara River, when several stakeouts, including some that had not been seen recently, were fairly easy to find. Among these were Red-headed Woodpecker, White-crowned Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Glaucous Gull. An adult Bald Eagle was an inspiring bonus. I ended the day on Hulbert Road in the Town of Wilson by adding three species in a matter of seconds - Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, and Lapland Longspur. Wow!

On the twelfth things continued to go smoothly. I added an incredible nine species, all stakeouts. The best birds were Black-headed Gull, Carolina Wren, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Eastern Bluebird, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Long-eared Owl. I knew that I was due for some bad luck so I did not expect my blazing success to continue in the Niagara Peninsula on the thirteenth. But continue, it did! Eight more species, including three in the same tree (Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-winged and Rusty Blackbird) were unbelievable! I also added Swamp Sparrow, Wild Turkey, Great Blue Heron, Dunlin, and Sharp-shinned Hawk. Only the Sharpy was unexpected. In terms of finding staked-out birds, the weekend of January 12 and 13 may well have been the most successful birding I have ever enjoyed, and it brought my monthly total to 97 species.

The next three birds would bring me to the magic number, my goal of 100. I felt sure now that I would make it and, naturally, I wanted them to be of the memorable kind but I knew that, more than likely, they would be the easy birds that I just had not taken the time to try to see yet (for example, Cedar Waxwing, Hairy Woodpecker, and Ring-necked Pheasant). Fortunately, the laws of probability did not write my birding script. Number 98, supplied by Alec Humann, was a Black-legged Kittiwake at the Peace Bridge, a fantastic January bird! I was ecstatic. How could I add any more rare birds to the list? The answer came the following day on the telephone. Kathy Hentz called to say that she and Tom Atkinson were watching a large hawk on the Statler Building but their vantage point in another building prevented them from knowing whether this was a Red-tail or a Peregrine Falcon. The Statler is not far from where I work but I stayed for the last hour and left at my regular time. I was not being over-confident. I just had strong doubts that this was a Peregrine Falcon and not because I doubt Kathy and Tom's judgment. But, after all, they did not see it well, and I already received all my Christmas presents, or so I thought. I drove to the area Kathy told me to look and I was lucky to find one parking space very nearby. I walked around to the north side of the Statler and began to check the many available perches on this tall building. My heart stopped when I noticed a large bird perched on a corner eave one story from the top. Lifting my binoculars I saw something which I had never before encountered in the wild in the B.O.S. region - a stunning and so memorable a species - #99 was an immature Peregrine Falcon!

The story should have ended here with the additional anticlimactic notes about this and that species which pushed the total over the 100 mark. After all, with over half the month still left after #99, I was positive that I would make it. But Ellen Schopp knew nothing about what the laws of probability were telling me nor even how many species I was at. Her call on the evening after I saw the Peregrine was intriguing, to say the least. She had seen a small falcon from her office at the University of Buffalo which she had assumed was a Kestrel. However, some things about what she had seen bothered her. She described what she saw. Could this possibly have been a Merlin? I told her that I was at 99 species, that I did not think there had ever been an acceptable winter record of Merlin away from the coast of New York State*, and that if she saw that bird again, which I was convinced was a Merlin, to call me right away. And she did - the next day. She had seen it again and had gotten Dave Suggs to confirm it as a Merlin. However, for once in this month, I was not so lucky. I tried at lunchtime and also after work but the bird eluded me. Two days later Peter Yoerg found the bird, told Ellen, and she phoned me at work again. When I arrived Ellen was determined. "I owe this to you, Willie, for all the life birds you've shown me." Ellen led me to the other side of Sherman Hall where the bird had last been seen. She then spotted a falcon fly into a group of pines on this blustery day, possibly for cover. And, as told at the head of this report, she was the one who spotted it flying out and got me to see it - # 100! It could not have been written any better. A great bird, a fantastic winter sighting, my milestone species, and it was found, as well as shown to me, by a great birding friend!

Obviously, to record over 100 species is a group effort and one cannot hope to locate that many species without help. I repeat here the many notable birds which I observed with thanks to the person(s) who either found the species or informed me about it: Bl.-cr. Night-Heron (Bob Brock); Tundra Swan (David Neveu and Terry Mosher); Snow Goose (Joe Gula, Jr. and Terry Mosher); Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal and Yellow-rumped Warbler (Bill Watson); Northern Shoveler; Ring-necked Duck and Lesser Scaup and Ruffed Grouse (Mike Galas); Ruddy Duck (Kayo Roy and Gordon Bellerby); Bald Eagle; Merlin (Ellen Schopp); Peregrine Falcon (Kathy Hentz and Tom Atkinson); Wild Turkey (Gordon Bellerby); Dunlin (Patrick O'Donnell); Black-headed Gull (Gordon Bellerby and Kayo Roy); Glaucous Gull (Bill Broderick); Black-legged Kittiwake (Alec Humann); Forster's Tern (Terry Mosher); Long-eared Owl (Joe DiDomenico); Red-headed Woodpecker; Yellow-bell. Sapsucker (George Mahaney and Dave Keller); Pileated Woodpecker; Eastern Bluebird (Linda Holmes); Rufous-s. Towhee (Mary Saville and Bill Burch); Swamp Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbird and Rusty Blackbird (Drew Campbell); White-cr. Sparrow; and Lapland Longspur.

Additionally, I extend thanks to Dave and Debbie Suggs who helped me to get such a great start on the first; Terry Mosher and Bill Watson who were especially encouraging throughout the month; and, of course, Betsy Potter, who made this month fun, when it could not have been so without her encouragement and patience (as well as her excellent spotting ability).

In the checklist that follows, numbers given after the species' names are the dates upon which I first recorded that species. In the lower right-hand corner of the sheet is the day by day standing of my monthly total.

* Birds of New York State (1974) by John Bull acknowledges five winter records from western New York reported by Beardslee and Mitchell (Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region, 1965). However, he throws doubt on these by stating that "details are lacking". He is referring to the lack of a specimen or photograph. However, Dave and Debbie Suggs found this bird again and Dave photographed it, providing the conclusive evidence which Bull wanted to see.

[illegible]

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Willard F. Stanley, an Honorary Member
passed away February 14, 1991

Welcome to the following new Associate Members:

Gilbert Lange
7898 Boston State Rd.
Hamburg, NY 14075
Tel: 649-1231

Mrs. Barbara Nutting
3722 East River Rd
Grand Island, NY 14072
Tel: 773-7215

Marcia O'Bara
168 Christiana St
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120
Tel: 695-2430

Mrs. Debbie Suggs
3905 N. Bailey Ave
Eggertsville, NY 14226
Tel: 836-2868

BOS MEETINGS

- April 10 Dick Christensen, The Natural History of "Winter Birds", exploring
the mystery behind the migration of birds in relation to their
breeding season in the Arctic.
- April 24 Charles Rosenberg - Barn Owls
- May 8 Open Discussion
- May 22 Diane Evans - Eagles
- June 12 Picnic Meeting at Tifft Nature Preserve

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth
Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15 inclusive, except the
fourth Wednesdays in November and December, at 8:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humboldt Parkway,
Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

Apr. 14: Sunday. BOS April bird count.

- Apr. 21: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World, 0.1 mi. east of Main & Transit. We will join the GOS at 9:30 at the Braddock Bay Park shelter. Leaders: Mike Zebehazy (662-6987) and Bob Spahn (GOS).
- Apr. 27: SATURDAY. Hawk migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 am at the Howard Johnson parking lot where I-90 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Hwy 62) in Niagara Falls, NY. Or go directly to Beamer Conservation Area. This is 30 mi. into Canada on QEW, on escarpment above Grimsby.
- May 5: Sunday. Tifft Nature Center. Meet at 7:00 am in Tifft parking Lot. This is a half-day trip for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Bill Watson (695-2820).
- May 12: Sunday. Williamsville Glen Park for warblers. Meet at 7:00 am in the Park parking lot off Glen Ave. (in Williamsville go east on Main St., cross Ellicott creek, turn left on Mill then left on Glen Ave.) Leader: Gery Rising (689-8301). A half-day trip.
- May 19: Sunday. May BOS Bird Count. For a territory contact the compiler. Morgan Jones (433-5687).
- May 26: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Vermont & Busti or at 6:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought. For further information contact the field trip chairman, Bill Burch 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the compiler: Mr. William D Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

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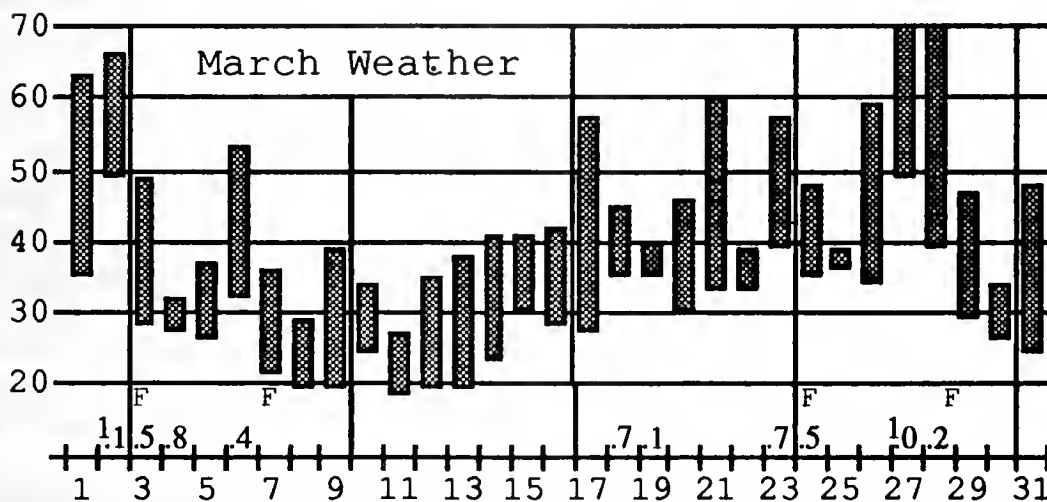
April 1991

Number 4

THE MONTH: March 1991

Can this be Buffalo I am writing about? I wait month after mild month for the really bad weather (so well beloved by Buffalo critics) to hit us and it never does. Thus March finished off one of the mildest winters in memory, leaving us a full yard below average snowfall! And it was the sixth consecutive month with above average temperatures. Believe me, I am not complaining.

Consider the data. The average temperature was 37.8° F, almost 5° above normal.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 2nd was a Saturday, the 3rd a Sunday. Data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

brought sleet and wet snow to Buffalo, closing many schools, but it punished other parts of upstate New York much more severely. This was the storm that did so much damage to Rochester where the freezing rain coated everything with over an inch of ice. Some parts of our region received a smaller dose of the Rochester treatment.

I suspect that this storm especially punished the winter field birds that were in the region at the time. We have few reports of Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings after March 3 and the ones we do have indicate very small numbers.

It was the second wettest March in Buffalo history with 6.0 inches of precipitation, but most of that fell as rain instead of snow. Snowfall was just 8.5 inches, 4 inches below average.

Of course this was still March and we didn't get off scot-free. There were two serious storms. The first started late on the 2nd, ending a delightful spell of warm weather with thunderstorms. Then the temperature dropped from the record setting high on the 2nd of 66° (the old record was only 53°) to 28° on the 3rd. The night of the 3rd and 4th

Were these birds decimated by this storm or driven out of the region? Horned Larks, our earliest nesting passerines, would already have mated by the time of this storm, so the violence may have especially ill served them. As I write this on May 1, for example, I have yet to see this usually rather common field bird despite an increasingly diligent search.

The last week of the month produced some additional harsh weather: thunderstorms on the 23rd and 27th and the second windiest March day on record on the 28th. Peak winds on that day reached 68 mph in Buffalo and 84 mph in Albion.

On March 17th Watson canoed (!) alone (!!) to Motor Island in the middle of the Niagara River and found a single egg in one of the Great Blue Heron nests. Bull lists New York State's earliest egg date as April 15, whereas Bent's older account gives the earliest date for New York and New England as April 30. Even the Virginia and Delaware records cited in Bent extend the early date only to April 6. Thus Watson's record is indeed a remarkable one: it represents a fine extension to his careful observations of this colony over a number of years.

The Great Egret on the 31st is the first March observation since 1986 and the Black-crowned Night Heron on the 9th is 17 days earlier than the only other March record in six years.

Eaton comments on some unusual nighttime flights of Tundra Swans over his Allegheny home. Greater White-fronted Geese have been seen in March for each of the past 4 years, but this year's arrival was early by 3 days. Other early waterfowl dates for the six year period: Green-winged Teal by 9 days, Northern Pintail by 6, Northern Shoveler by 1, Gadwall by 8, American Widgeon by 1, and Ring-necked Duck by 1. On the other hand Ruddy Duck appeared not at all for the third time in six years. Cohen's birding class found a Eurasian Wigeon on March 24th that remained for several days to the delight of a number of other observers.

Hawk records for the month are similar to those of recent years. With one exception shorebird records are also not unusual. The exception is Purple Sandpiper: 6 remained in the Niagara River above the falls until the 16th, further extending the first March records in six years.

Bellerby notes "as usual" the build-up of Bonaparte's Gulls from 12 on the 20th to 2800 on the 28th. He records a corresponding build-up of Little Gull numbers to 13 by the end of the month after a winter of small numbers and few reports. Six Saw-whet Owls on the 27th by Potter and D'Anna is a high count for recent years and suggests the potential of a thorough search of more possible roosting areas.

Axtell found a single Purple Martin "in extremely poor condition about ready to expire" at Jaeger Rocks on the 26th, the first March date in many years, and the Barn Swallow seen by D'Anna and Potter on the 27th is similarly early. A Gray Catbird on the 20th is the first March record in six years.

Given their increasingly threatened status in New York, the March Loggerhead Shrike observation for the second year in a row is encouraging.

No late additions to the very poor winter finch year are noted. All that we have in March are 2 Pine Siskins, a few widely scattered Purple Finches, and some reasonable counts of Evening Grosbeaks that in no way match the numbers of these voracious feeders during incursion years.

Without taking credit away from any of those providing records, I commend several observers for continuing series of records of the same area over time. Such records do not often provide the extreme dates on which this club and its members are, as I believe and have noted before, too tightly focussed; instead they provide more useful information about population densities for long term summaries and comparisons. For this type of day-to-day recording I single out Elizabeth Brooks for her banding station records in Alfred and Ward, Ray and Chris Budniewski for their Sheridan yard records, Linda Holmes for her census of the Sinking Ponds area of East Aurora, John Luensman for Ripley hawk-watch data, and Vivian Pitzrick for her Amity Lake records.

Literature cited:

- Bent, Arthur Cleveland. *Life Histories of North American Marsh Birds*. United States National Museum Bulletin. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1926.
 Bull, John. *Birds of New York State*. Garden City, New York, Doubleday/Natural History Press, 1974.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1984) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	24F	1	Bear Lake	Rew, Buck
Pied-billed Grebe	2-30	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory et al
"	17F	2	Dunkirk	Flory et al
"	22	4	East Aurora	Holmes
Horned Grebe	3F	8	Celeron	Sundell
"	9	3	Yates Twp	D'Anna, Potter
* Red-necked Grebe	27F, 31	1, 3	Yates Twp	D'Anna, Collins et al
Great Blue Heron	16	17+1 egg/nest	Motor Is. Niag. R.	Watson
"	27	36	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
* Great Egret	31F	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
Bl.-cr. Night-heron	9F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory et al
Tundra Swan	1	45	over Hamburg	Rew
"	2	57	over Porter Twp	D'Anna
"	6	75	over Carrollton Twp	Eaton
"	9	350	Oakfield Twp	Cohen et al
"	10	250	Wilson	D & D Suggs
"	10	183	Iroquois NWR	Cohen et al
"	11	125	Hanover Center	Flory
"	21	80	Alfred Twp	Brooks
<u>Mute Swan</u>	23	1	Tifft NP	Watson
* <u>Gr. White-fr. Goose</u>	16	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
<u>A. a. flavirostris</u>	16	2	Yates Twp	Harper, D'Anna (BOS)
Snow Goose	3F	12	Yates Twp	Collins
"	9	4	Oakfield Twp	Cohen et al
"	9, 27	17, 55	Yates Twp	D'Anna, Potter
"	16, 17	6, 3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Canada Goose	9	35,000	Oakfield Twp	Cohen et al
"	12	30,000	Iroquois NWR	Holmes, Ruhl
Wood Duck	67F	1	Carlton Station	D'Anna (BOS)
"	17	2	Ripley Twp	Flory
Green-winged Teal	2F	2	Ripley Twp	Rew, Buck
"	10	1	Iroquois NWR	D & D Suggs, Cohen et al
Northern Pintail	2	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory et al
"	3	17	Newstead Twp	Watson
"	3	39	Iroq. NWR & vicin.	Watson
* Blue-winged Teal	9F	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Flory et al
"	9F	2	Iroquois NWR	Cohen et al
Northern Shoveler	10F	2	Iroquois NWR	Cohen, Suggs et al
"	27	2	Wilson Twp	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	67	Iroquois NWR	Collins et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Gadwall	3F	8	Celeron	Sundell
"	3F	4	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
*Eurasian Wigeon	24	1	Porter Twp	Cohen et al
"	25, 27	1	"	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	1	"	Rising
American Wigeon	2F	4	Tift NP	Watson
"	2F	2	Ripley Twp	Rew, Buck
"	2F	4	Wilson Twp	D'Anna
"	9	60	Oakfield Twp	Cohen et al
Redhead	3	6	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	27	1	Darien Lake SP	Holmes
Ring-necked Duck	2F	11	Ripley Twp	Rew, Buck
"	3, 30	21, 320	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Rising
Lesser Scaup	11F	2	Markham Gravel Pit	W & M Barber
"	21	11	Amity Lake	V & M Pitzrick
Oldsquaw	10	2	Ripley Twp	Flory
"	30	1	Cuba Lake	Pitzrick et al
Bufflehead	21	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
Hooded Merganser	3	1	Pomfret Twp	Flory, Goetz
"	3	7	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
Common Merganser	2, 9, 16	3, 160, 250	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory et al
"	16	8	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	3	2	Newstead Twp	Watson
*Turkey Vulture	8F	1	Eden Twp	Andrie
"	10, 11, 27	1, 2, 400 over	Ripley Twp	Luensman
*Osprey	1	27	East Aurora	Holmes
Bald Eagle	8-30	1-2 @ nest	Iroquois NWR	Many observers
"	11, 25, 26, 28	1, 1, 1, 1	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
"	16	1 ad. 1 imm.	Pinehurst	Andrie
"	27	1 imm.	Yates Twp	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	1 imm.	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
Northern Harrier	10	15	Yates & Iroq. NWR	D & D Suggs
"	26	24	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
Sharp-sh. Hawk	6, 27	1, 88	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
Cooper's Hawk	16, 26	3, 5	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
Red-shouldered Hawk	1, 2	1, 2	Sheridan Twp	R & C Budniewski
"	1, 2, 21	1, 2, 127	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
Red-tailed Hawk	1, 2, 26	31, 107, 250	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
"	10	12	Yates Twp	D & D Suggs
"	20	3	Stockton Twp	Mosher
American Kestrel	1, 27	1, 34	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
Merlin	7, 8	1	Buffalo	D & D Suggs, Schopp
American Coot	2-30	26-15	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory et al
"	10	9	Iroquois NWR	Cohen et al
"	30	102	"	Watson
"	31	1	East Aurora	Holmes
*Killdeer	1F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	2	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	2	2	Wheatfield Twp	Cohen et al
*Greater Yellowlegs	26F	1	Beaver Meadow WS	Holmes, Ruhl
*Lesser Yellowlegs	24F	1	Eden Twp	D & D Suggs
Purple Sandpiper	3	2	Niagara Falls	Collins

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Purple Sandpiper	16	6	Goat Island	Watson
*Common Snipe	22F	2	Portland Twp	Mosher, Farver
"	24	3	Eden Twp	D & D Suggs
*American Woodcock	8F	1	Sheridan Twp	R & C Budniewski
"	14	4-6	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
"	18	5	Elma Twp	Collins
"	21	12	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Little Gull	6, 20	1, 5	Queenston, Ont	Bellerby
"	10	3-4	Lewiston	D'Anna
"	28	13	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
Bonaparte's Gull	20, 28	12, 2800	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
Snowy Owl	2	1	Wheatfield Twp	Cohen et al
Long-eared Owl	27, 29	3, 1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
Short-eared Owl	5	1	Elma Twp	Collins
"	10	1	Clarence Twp	D & D Suggs
"	25	3	Porter Twp	Watson
"	25	10	Wheatfield Twp	D'Anna, Potter
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	14, 17	1	Tifft NP	Rising, Holmes, Suggs
"	27	2	Golden Hill SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	27	4	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	"
Red-headed Wdpkr.	3, 16, 17	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Cohen, D'Anna, Collins
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	24	1	Iroquois NWR	Rising et al
"	31	1	Wales (f)	O. Rosche
*Eastern Phoebe	23F	1	Sheridan Twp	R & C Budniewski
"	23F	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
"	27	1	Yates Twp	D'Anna, Potter
*Purple Martin	26F	1	Jaeger Rocks SP	Axtell
*Tree Swallow	24F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Happ(BOS)
"	27	36, 9	Yates, Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
*Barn Swallow	27F	1	Yates Twp	D'Anna, Potter
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	7 reports throughout	WNY	
Red-br. Nuthatch	13	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	29	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Watson
Carolina Wren	2	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
"	2, 23, 31	1-2	Tifft NP	Watson, Collins
"	17	3	"	D & D Suggs
"	22	1	Stockton Twp	Mosher, Farver
Winter Wren	29F	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Watson
"	29F	1	Tifft NP	Lange
Golden-cr. Kinglet	29	9	Goat Is.	Watson
"	30	6	Lake Erie SP	Cohen et al
Eastern Bluebird	1-31	1-7	Amity Twp & Lake	V & M Pitzrick
"	5, 6, 20	1, 2, 2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	26	6	Hamburg Twp	Holmes, Ruhl
Gray Catbird	20	1	Pomfret Twp	Budniewski
Northern Mockingbird	24	1	Canadaway Cr. NS	D & D Suggs
"	24	2	Lewiston	Cohen et al
"	30	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory et al
*American Pipit	19F	5	Hamburg	Rew
Northern Shrike	3	3	Lake Ontario Plain	Collins
"	6-31	9 other reports throughout	WNY	
"	12	3	Erie & Genesee Co.	Holmes Ruhl
*Loggerhead Shrike	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Rising

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Yellow-r. Warbler	31	1	Iroquois NWR	Collins et al
Rufous-s. Towhee	31	1	Tifft NP	Watson
*Fox Sparrow	26F	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	27	1	Cattaraugus Co.	Rising
Swamp Sparrow	6,20	1	East Aurora	Holmes
White-thr. Sparrow	15	8	East Aurora(f)	Holmes
White-cr. Sparrow	9	1	Cambria Twp	D'Anna, Potter
Snow Bunting	3	1	Lake Ontario Plain	Cohen et al
Red-w. Blackbird	2	585	Porter & Wilson Twp	D'Anna
*Eastern Meadowlark	9F	1	Carlton Station	D'Anna, Potter
"	16	1	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
Rusty Blackbird	2F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	3	2	Lake Ontario Plain	Cohen et al
"	6	4	East Aurora	Holmes
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	20	Wales	O. Rosche
"	10	5	Iroquois NWR	Cohen et al
Purple Finch	1-31	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	20	2	Amity Lake	V & M Pitzrick
"	27	1	Cattaraugus Co.	Rising
Pine Siskin	14-28	2	Niag-on-Lake(f)	Bellerby
Evening Grosbeak	1-31	2-32	Amity Lake	Pitzrick et al
"	1-31	30-72	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	3,12	28,72	Sheridan Twp	R & C Budniewski

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	118
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	20
Total for year.	138

NOTICE

The Buffalo Ornithological Society has just published the 6th edition of the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York & Adjacent Ontario. This edition will be effective as of May 1, 1991 for reported sightings. Anyone wishing to order a copy of this handy, pocket-sized volume may do so by sending your name and address along with \$2.00 for each copy to: Audrey Horbett, 156 Westcliff Dr., West Seneca, NY 14224 (checks should be made payable to: Buffalo Ornithological Society).

LAKE ONTARIO PLAIN TRIP

March 16, 1991

A B.O.S. tradition of many years, the Lake Ontario Plain field trip has recently been held earlier in March or even in February. Though it is one of the most interesting regions in the B.O.S. study area at that time of the year, it becomes increasingly more exciting as March progresses. This year's trip, the latest in my experience, was also one of the best.

High pressure and bright sunny skies had dominated the weather the preceding week and also on this lovely day. It was around the freezing mark at the start in Lewiston and reached the mid-forties by noon. However, the wind picked up in the afternoon making some birders put their gloves back on.

28 people began the trip in Lewiston. We drove straight to Carlton Station on Route 98, the eastern border of the B.O.S. study area, which is about an hour away. Canada Geese were conspicuous in their abundance along the way and at our first stop. With them were two Tundra Swans, a Wood Duck, an American Wigeon,

Northern Pintail and a few Ring-necked Ducks. These birds, like many species seen this day, were the of the migration for many people on the trip. At Lakeside Beach State Park we were successful in our quest for Red-headed Woodpecker and added several species of waterfowl on the lake. We were also fortunate to observe a small hawk flight while at the park. A few Red-tails, three Harriers, a Turkey Vulture, a Sharp-shin and a Cooper's passed overhead, heading east. Though usually not as concentrated as at Braddock Bay, 24 miles to the east, hawk flights along the lake in the B.O.S. region can still be spectacular.

Though it was too early for snipe along Route 18 we did get fabulous studies of an adult male dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk as we returned to Lakeshore Road. It was the first of three or four of this plumage that we observed this day in addition to three light-morph birds. At Shadigee a Horned Grebe provided a challenge for people to see between dives and waves. Heading west we stopped a half mile short of Golden Hill State Park to observe the geese in the wet fields. I saw nothing unusual and soon drove on. When I realized that only two of the eleven cars were following me I turned around. Back at the field of geese, Tom Harper had spotted the bird of the day, or rather, birds - tow adult Greater White-fronted Geese! This rarity was a lifer for eleven birders! The geese were in good light and not too distant allowing us to determine from their orange bills that they were of the Greenland race, *A. a. flavirostris*.

At Golden Hill we could not locate the shrike seen by Barbara Henderson and Peter Yoerg before our arrival. However, driving back toward Route 18 we did find the group of 20 swans and a Snow Goose that they had also told us about. Although I had planned a few more stops to look over geese in the fields, the group decided that we had had such great success with geese and swans already that more stops for those species were not necessary. So, why not head for the swamps? It was a good choice as it turned out. The refuges were packed with, yes, geese but also several new species of ducks and an adult Bald Eagle at Cayuga Pool. Among the Canadas at Cayuga Pool were two adult and one immature "Blue Goose" as well as one immature Snow. The latter bird was a small individual which prompted study to ensure that it was not the much rarer Ross' Goose. After saying our good-byes at Cayuga our carload of four stopped at the Lewiston Road overlook on the Tonawanda W.M.A. Another twenty swans were there as well as, incredibly, an other adult Greater White-fronted Goose! Actually, this species may not be so rare as commonly believed. Two years ago, a flock of eighteen was found in the Niagara Peninsula. A few years before that, Betsy Potter and I, in one day, had one in the Town of Newstead and four more at Cayuga Pool. In the last several years almost all sightings have been in March though it should also be looked for throughout the spring and autumn passage of Canada Geese, the species with which it is almost always found.

Our field trip total of 54 species is very good for this time of year. I hope that some participants were inspired enough to plan a return to the Lake Ontario Plain. It is an under-birded area and yet it has one of the greatest potential for rarities of any location in the B.O.S. study area. And what birder doesn't want to see rarities?

WillieD'Anna

EARLY NESTING RECORDS IN LATE WINTER

Late winter is an excellent time to look for early nesting activity for several species, and the winter of 1991 provided early nesting activity for Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Blue Heron and Bald Eagle.

The Great Horned Owl is the first to nest, and on February 17, 1991 a Great Horned Owl was observed incubating on a nest in a clear cut area a mile west of Two Mile Creek Road in the Town of Tonawanda. The only Niagara Frontier records that I am aware of that are earlier are W. A. Smith's discovery of a broken egg under a nest on January 31 and observed a bird incubating on February 3, 1927 at Lyndonville and in 1935 Ecklers et al. recorded one egg in nest in Oak Orchard Swamp on February 10 (Beardslee and Mitchell - 1965).

Although a Red-tailed Hawk was observed on nest in Town of Tonawanda at the end of February (well in advance of the New York egg date of March 8) their nest was not observed long enough and frequently enough to establish that the Hawk was indeed incubating.

The most extraordinary record was that of a Great Blue Heron on Motor Island near Beaver Island State Park. The nesting observations are summarized as follows:

March 2 - Three pairs of Great Blue Herons were standing on nests at 12:05.

March 3 - Four Great Blue Herons were standing on nests at Motor Island while the colony at Iroquois N.W.R. was void of herons the same day.

March 5 - 18 herons were observed on Motor Island but only one was standing on a nest.

March 10 - At 9:00 three of the five herons were observed standing on three nests.

March 15 - Nine birds were observed standing on seven nests, while one heron was low on its nest in incubating position with only its head visible from 3:45 to 4:15. A drawing was made to record the nest's position.

March 16 - From 6:30 to 7:00 am, the Great Blue Heron was again observed incubating. Ten other herons were on other nests while an additional seven herons were standing on the ground. 19 herons were standing in the Iroquois colony.

However, later that same day (3:36 to 3:41 pm) the previously incubating heron was sitting on its nest but not in an incubating position. Was the heron really incubating or just testing its nest? Realizing that the apparent incubation was a full month prior to the April 16 - June 9 egg dates in The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State (Andrle and Carroll, 1988), I immediately commenced a 4 1/2 hour canoe trip from my house to Motor Island. Since the nest was in a bush about 3 feet above the ground, I could easily see the solitary egg in the small depression in the center of the nest!

This is not the first time the Motor Island herons have had an early nesting record. Last year when the colony was first established, two of the wintering Great Blue Herons were observed low on their two nests in incubating position on April 12, 1990.

The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State lists egg dates from March 16 to April 14 for the Bald Eagle. The Iroquois Bald Eagle was observed in incubating position from 10:05 to 10:35 on March 16, 1991. A Wildlife Biologist from Buffalo State College indicated the same eagle has been incubating from 6:00 am to 10:00 am. It will be interesting to find out if Iroquois N.W.R. personnel observed earlier incubating activity. The Bald Eagle was also observed incubating on March 17, 1991 at 7:45 am.

Bill Watson

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the following New Associate Members:

Charles Rosenberg
470 Old Falls Blvd
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120
Tel. 695-5844

Ruth Williams
36 Warren Ave.
Kenmore, NY 14217
Tel. 873-4566

Change of Address:

Mary Louise Emerson
24 Rhode Island St., #327
Buffalo, NY 14213

Information Requested

BOS member Charles Rosenberg is seeking information on Barn Owls in the BOS Study Area, especially Western New York. Anyone with information on Barn Owl sightings, nestings or even former nesting areas is asked to contact Charles.

BOS MEETINGS

May 22: Diane Evans - Eagles.

Jun. 12: Annual Picnic Meeting at Tifft Nature Preserve. Meeting begins at 6:30 pm. Bring your picnic supper before if you wish. Birding to follow.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

May 12: Sunday. Williamsville Glen Park for Warblers. Meet at 7:00 am in the Park parking lot off Glen Ave. (in Williamsville, go east on Main St., cross Ellicott Creek, turn left onto Mill, then left onto Glen Ave.). Leader: Gerry Rising (689-8301). A half-day trip.

May 19: SUNDAY. May BOS Bird Count. For a territory, call the compiler, Morgan Jones (433-5687).

May 26: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 6:00 am at Vermont & Busti or at 6:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).

June 5: Wednesday. Whip-Poor-Will trip and Dinner. Meet at 6:00 pm at Vermont & Busti. We will eat at Lotus Garden Restaurant in Port Colborne, Ont., then proceed to Wilson Road, which is 4 mi. west on Hwy. 3. Late-comers can meet us at the restaurant about 7:30. Leader: Mike Galas (693-4892). Call him for reservations so that the restaurant will have an approximate number. The restaurant is at 182 West Street on the west bank of the Welland Canal. It is about one block south of the southernmost canal bridge, which is on Clarence Street. They will offer us a variety of very good combination plates at about \$5.00, which can be served promptly.

June 15: Saturday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for nesting warblers and more. Meet at 7:00 am at Amherst Book World, 0.1 mi. east of Main & Transit. Leader to be announced.

June 30: Sunday. Letchworth State Park for nesting warblers. Meet at 5:30 at the municipal parking lot in Wales Center on route 20A, 4 mi. east of the Rt. 400 Expressway. Make reservations with Don Roberson (283-5359) so he can cancel the trip by calling everyone if the weather is unfit.

- July 21: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie. Meet at 7:00 am at Vermont & Busti or at 7:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).
- Aug. 11: Sunday. Mystery Trip. Go where the birds are. Call Bill Burch (773-3690) a day or two beforehand for details as to when and where to meet.
- Aug. 25: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie. Meet at 7:00 am at Vermont & Busti or at 7:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783)

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiling:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer:

Jane Heyer
296 Westchester Blvd
Kenmore, NY 14210
875-3318

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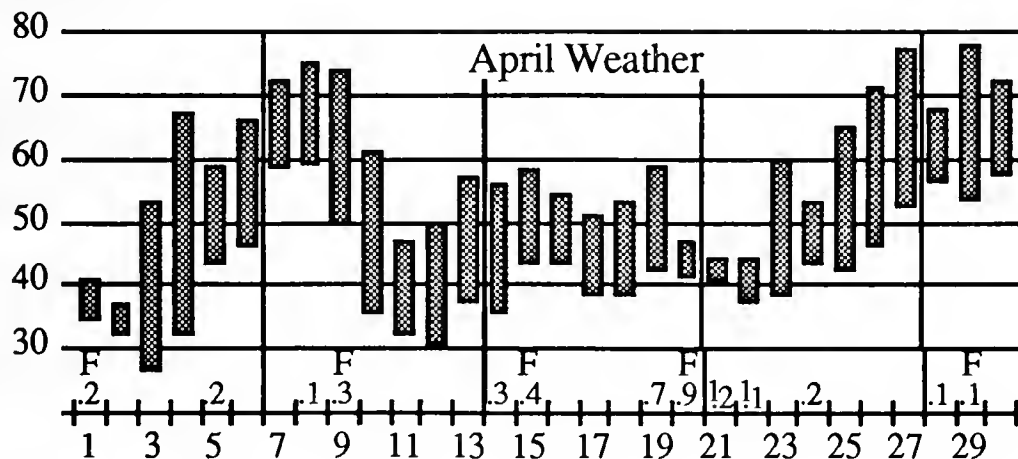
May 1991

Number 5

THE MONTH: April 1991

The phrase "a broken record" has two quite different meanings, both of which apply this month. This month April fills the blank in "_____ was a wet month, warmer than usual," that could have been the first sentence in any recent report. In fact it was the seventh consecutive month of above average warmth! The temperature average for April was 50.5°, just over 5° above normal, fourth highest in Buffalo weather history and highest in 35 years.

Precipitation was 5.8 inches, nearly double normal and only 0.1 inch less than the all time record for April. The March-April total, 11.8 inches, is a record for any two consecutive months.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 6th was a Saturday, the 7th a Sunday. Data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

15th. These disturbances only accented the generally pleasant month.

Notice on the chart how the temperatures improved from the 23rd through the 27th. On all but the last of these days, the wind direction was southwest with a general character of a light breeze. Especially on the first of these days this made for excellent hawk flights. The combination of warm nighttime temperatures and a following wind also encouraged many passerine migrants to move north during this period.

In the following comments the records of this year are compared with those of the previous five, that is from 1986 to 1990.

The passage of Common Loons and Double-crested Cormorants through the area this year was excellent, the maximum of 119 loons on the 25th and 59 cormorants on the April 14th BOS Count each three times those of recent years. On the other hand, both Pied-billed and Horned Grebe counts are down significantly and no Red-necked Grebes were reported for the first time in six years.

Heron seem to be doing quite well with at least a BOS Count 6 year high, the Motor Island Great Blue Heron colony sweetening that pot. Both American Bittern and Green-backed Heron arrived a few days earlier than in recent years.

The overall BOS Count of ducks, geese, and swans is down from last year's record high, but remains about average for recent years. Within this family, however, there is rather wide variation. While woodies, shovelers, and baldpate thrive, blacks continue to decline and whistlers are down this year as well. We may well be seeing the last years of the Black Duck: beset for years with disease, its gene pool is increasingly being taken over by Mallards.

As already noted, the late month hawk flight was good. The 23rd was a particularly notable day with over 3000 hawks, mostly Broad-wings, observed from Lakeshore Memorial Park. A day or two later I had a call from a university colleague who wanted to know why he had hundreds of hawks flying over his Williamsville home. This spring's flight included the full range of expected hawks: Turkey Vulture, harrier, both eagles and Osprey, four buteos, three falcons, and three accipiters.

Although fewer turkeys were seen on the Count this year than last, they still outnumbered grouse and pheasants together. Both rails and moorhens were earlier than usual. Shorebird Count numbers are highest since 1986. Dunlin arrived three weeks earlier than in recent years and Purple Sandpipers stayed at Niagara Falls through the month. Compare the verification guide's late date of March 7!

While the Count numbers of gulls, terns, and owls remain about the same this year, woodpeckers, flycatchers, and swallows returned to normal after low numbers the past few years. No Black Terns were reported during April. I hope that doesn't mean that the colony at Iroquois is gone. Two Whip-poor-wills this year make a total of 3 for the most recent 6 Aprils. Sapsuckers appeared early and their numbers were up. Of all these families only rough-winged swallows appeared early. My fears about Horned Larks expressed last month are partly confirmed by Count data: the 38 recorded a 39 year low.

The six Common Raven reports this month represent twice those of the previous five Aprils. Although the overall Count numbers of tits and wrens is about average, chickadee numbers are down slightly whereas the numbers of titmouse, creeper, Carolina Wren, and both kinglets are up. Both thrush and mimic thrush Count numbers are low.

Thirty-five Yellow-rumped Warblers produced a Count high for vireos and warblers in recent years. But even the good weather could not lead to a record number of vireo and warbler species for the month. Here is a comparison:

SPECIES	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1986
vireos	2	1	1	1	3	2
warblers	11	9	10	14	17	14

For the six year period early dates were set for Yellow and Black-and-White Warblers, tied for Golden-winged, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Pine Warblers and Ovenbird. Especially noteworthy is the Yellow-throated Warbler found by Bob Sundell on the 23rd.

Overall Count numbers of sparrows and icterids are down and finch numbers average. The specific lows were Fox, Song, and White-crowned Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds, and House Sparrows — clearly a bad news/good news list. A possible forecast of things to come is the 18 year high count of Evening Grosbeaks! Should we plan for an extra carload of sunflower seeds?

Notes taken from individual reports: Elizabeth Brooks tells of a captured Pileated Woodpecker escaping from her hand as she tried to band it. I don't know

whether the symbols following her comment represent record changes or a description of how she felt. Ray Budniewski couldn't resist adding a Black Bear to his list on the 30th, a report removed by our ever alert statisticians. Steve Eaton tells of an injured Great Horned Owl taken to a rehabilitator. Vivian Pitzrick notes a significant reduction of nesting Eastern Bluebirds on her Amity Lake Bluebird Trail. Fran Rew tells of an influx of female Purple Finches to her feeder on the (warm) night of the 27th. — G. Rising

Literature cited:

Andrle, Robert F., et al., eds. *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York & Adjacent Ontario*. Sixth Edition. Buffalo, Buffalo Ornithological Society, 1991.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1984) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
*Red-throated Loon	6	1	off Yates Twp	D'Anna
"	25	1	off Golden Hill SP	Roberson
Common Loon	1	1	Amity Lake	V & R Pitzrick
"	25	<u>119</u>	Sommerset Twp	Roberson
Horned Grebe	2.8	1.8	Tonawanda WMA	Holmes, Roberson
"	7	6	Yates Twp.	Watson
"	8.18	1.7	Amity Lake	V & M Pitzrick
"	19.27	1.2	Fort Niagara SP	Many observers
D.-crest. Cormorant	10F	1	Amity Lake	V. Pitzrick et al
"	21	22	Bflo. & Tona.	Watson
"	23	9	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
"	23.27	33.48	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson
"	27	2	Bear Lake	Rew, Buck
* American Bittern	12F	1	Tift NP	Brasure
"	13	1	Amity Lake	V. Pitzrick
"	17	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	18	1	Sheridan Twp	Budniewski
"	19	2	Pomfret Twp	Rew, Buck
"	23	1	Hanover Twp	Flory, Goetz
Great Blue Heron	27	52 On nests	Cuba	V. Pitzrick
"	28	2 y/nest	Motor Is.	Watson
Great Egret	2	3	Tonawanda WMA	Holmes (EABC)
"	16	2	Burgeson WS	Sundell et al
"	30	1	Tift NP	Holmes, Lange et al
* Green-b. Heron	19F	1	Tift NP	Lange
"	21	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	2	5	Buffalo	D'Anna
"	4	50	Niagara Falls, Ont	D'Anna
"	27.30	1	Tift NP	Watson, Holmes

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
<u>Mute Swan</u>	6-26	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Brasure et al
<u>Snow Goose</u>	2,6,11	3,1,1	Iroquois NWR	Many observers
"	5	1	Yates Twp	Chilton, Schaffner
<u>Green-w. Teal</u>	21	48	Porter Twp	D'Anna
<u>Northern Shoveler</u>	7	45	Iroquois NWR	Watson
<u>Redhead</u>	17	2	Tifft NP	Brasure
<u>Ring-necked Duck</u>	8	530	Tona WMA, Iroq. NWR	Roberson
"	12	40	Tifft NP	Brasure
<u>Surf Scoter</u>	27	1	off Yates Twp	D Anna
<u>White-w. Scoter</u>	4	38	Shadigee	Watson
<u>Red-br. Merganser</u>	25	650	off Niagara Co.	Roberson
<u>Ruddy Duck</u>	11F,12	1	Buffalo	Mueller
"	24	2	Iroquois NWR	Holmes
<u>Turkey Vulture</u>	3,4	208,442	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
"	6	227	over Hamburg Twp	Andrle et al
"	7	378	over Yates Twp	D'Anna, Watson
<u>Osprey</u>	3F	1	Alma Twp	Chilton
"	3F,6,10	1,1,1	Amity Twp	M. Pitzrick
"	18,19,23,25	27,7,14,9	over Hamburg Twp	Andrle Twp
"	23	24	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
"	27	8	over Eden Twp	Andrle et al
"	6-26	10 reports	mainly from lake plains	
<u>Bald Eagle</u>	4,6,9,23	2,1,2,2	over Ripley	Luensman
"	7	1 imm	over Yates Twp	D'Anna, Watson
"	7,18	1,1 imm	over Hamburg Twp	Andrle et al
"	2	2 ad+1 imm	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
"	10	1 ad	Amity Twp	M. Pitzrick
"	26,27,28,29	3,2,1,4	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
"	28	1	over Eden Twp	Rew
<u>Northern Harrier</u>	6	18	over Carlton Twp	D & D Suggs
<u>Sharp-sh. Hawk</u>	7	189	over Yates Twp	D'Anna, Watson
"	23,29	314,221	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
"	25	237	over Hamburg Twp	Andrle et al
<u>Cooper's Hawk</u>	7	23	over Yates Twp	D'Anna, Watson
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	7	2 imm.	over Yates Twp	D Anna, Watson
"	25	1 ad	over Hamburg Twp	Andrle et al
<u>Broad-w. Hawk</u>	14F,23,25,26	8,2655,736,806	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
"	16,23,25	1,686,2554	over Hamburg Twp	Andrle et al
"	25	40	over Iroquois NWR	Potter, House
"	27,28	150,400	over Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
"	29	90	over Fredonia	Flory
<u>Red-tailed Hawk</u>	7	178	over Yates Twp	D'Anna, Watson
<u>Rough-leg. Hawk</u>	21	18	Yates&Somerset	D Anna
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	18	1 imm	over Hamburg Twp	Andrle et al
<u>American Kestrel</u>	6	37	over Carlton Twp	D & D Suggs
"	6	58	over Ripley Twp	Luensman
"	7	45	over Yates Twp	D'Anna, Watson
<u>Merlin</u>	14	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso, Humann
"	23	1	Tifft NP	Lange et al
"	25	1	Sheridan Twp	Chilton
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	12	1	over Evans Twp	Rew
<u>Virginia Rail</u>	17	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	28	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Sora	25	1	East Aurora	Holmes
* Common Moorhen	13F	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna
"	20	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Greater Yellowlegs	4	1	Porter Twp	Watson
"	13	1	Eden Twp	D'Anna, Watson
Lesser Yellowlegs	19	2	Amity Twp	V. Pitzrick
"	27	38	Smithville, Ont	Cohen, Brasure et al
* Solitary Sandpiper	27F	5	Yates Twp	D'Anna
"	28	1	Eden Twp	D & D Suggs
Spotted Sandpiper	21	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	23	2	Amherst Twp	Cohen
* Pectoral Sandpiper	7F	68	Yates Twp	D'Anna
"	11	1	Newstead Twp	Hess
"	13	3	Eden Twp	Watson, D'Anna
"	14	61	Iroquois NWR	Cohen et al
"	27	120	Smithville, Ont	Cohen, Brasure et al
Purple Sandpiper	4	7	Goat Island	D'Anna
"	12, 23	5, 7	Goat Island	Watson
Dunlin	6F	1	Yates Twp	D & D Suggs
"	7, 27	1, 2	Yates Twp	D'Anna
"	27	24	Smithville, Ont	Cohen, Brasure et al
Iceland Gull	2	1	Motor Is.	Hess
* Caspian Tern	7F	2	Yates Twp	D'Anna
"	13	2	Tifft NP	Watson, D'Anna
"	20	4	Bourne's Beach	Sundell
"	21	30	Yates to Porter	D'Anna
Common Tern	16	4	Buffalo	D'Anna
"	28	55	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory, Goetz
Long-eared Owl	6	1	Golden Hill SP	Potter
N. Saw-whet Owl	7	1	Carrollton Twp	Eaton
"	7	1	Tifft NP	D & D Suggs
Whip-poor-will	27	1	Sheridan Twp	Budniewski
* Chimney Swift	26F	4	Jamestown	Sundell
"	27	3	Hamburg Twp	Watson et al
Red-headed Wdpr.	28F	1	Tifft NP	Rising, Galas
Red-bellied Wdpr.	12, 20	1, 1	Amity Lake	V. Pitzrick
"	13	1	Sheridan Twp	Budniewski
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1F-30	1-2	Amity Lake	V & M Pitzrick
"	9	2	Niagara Falls	Potter, D'Anna
* Least Flycatcher	28F	1	Tifft NP	D & D Suggs
* Eastern Kingbird	27F	1	Ripley Twp	Mosher et al
Purple Martin	20	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21	1	Somerset Twp	D'Anna
* N. Rough-w. Swallow	6F	1	Yates Twp	D & D Suggs
"	6F	4	Yates Twp	D'Anna, Potter
"	16	1	Amherst Twp	Cohen
"	17	1	Tifft NP	Brasure
* Bank Swallow	21F	2	Ft Niagara SP	D'Anna
Barn Swallow	9	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	18	4	Brocton	Budniewski
Common Raven	2, 5, 6	1, 1, 1	Amity Twp	M. Pitzrick
"	12, 19	1, 1	Allegany SP	Rising
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	8 reports	throughout WNY	

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Brown Creeper	7	5	Tift NP	D & D Suggs
Carolina Wren	8	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	13-28	1-2	Tift NP	many observers
"	25	1	Chautauqua Twp	Sundell
"	30	1	Williamsville & Glen	Rising
"	30	1	Jamestown	Sundell
* House Wren	26F	1	Amity Lake	V. Pitzrick
"	27	5 reports	lakeplains	
* Ruby-cr. Kinglet	7	4	Tift NP	D & D Suggs
"	7	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
* Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	12F	1	Amity Twp	V. Pitzrick
"	17	1	East Aurora	Holmes
* Veery	28F	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
* Hermit Thrush	9F	1	East Aurora	Holmes, Ruhl
"	11	1	Carrollton Twp	Eaton
"	11	1	Tift NP	Brasure
* Wood Thrush	21F	1	Tift NP	Watson
"	30	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
Gray Catbird	28	2	Tift NP	D & D Suggs
Brown Thrasher	19	1	Amity Lake	V & R Pitzrick
"	19	1	Brocton	Budniewski
"	19	1	Tift NP	Lange
American Pipit	21	40	Java	Holmes
Northern Shrike	2	2	Iroquois NWR	Holmes (EABC)
"	7L	1	Jos. Davis SP	Cohen et al
* Solitary Vireo	17F, 23	1, 1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
"	19	5	Allegany SP	Rising
* Warbling Vireo	28F	2	Williamsville & Glen	Johnson
* Blue-winged Warbler	28F	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
"	30	1	Tift NP	Holmes (EABC)
* Golden-wing. Warbler	28F	1	Tift NP	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	1	Tift NP	Holmes (EABC)
* "Brewster's Warbler"	30F	1	Tift NP	Bateman, Horn
* Nashville Warbler	25F	1	Amity Lake	V. Pitzrick
"	26	1	Amherst Twp	Cohen
* Yellow Warbler	25F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	26	3	Amherst Twp	Cohen
* Chestnut-s. Warbler	30F	1	Tift NP	Holmes, Lange et al
Yellow-r. Warbler	13	7	Tift NP	Watson, D'Anna
"	13	1	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
"	13	2	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
* Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	25F	1	Jamestown	Sundell
"	28	2	Tift NP	D'Anna, Rising et al
"	28	2	Williamsville & Glen	Johnson
* Blackburnian Warbler	28F	3	Williamsville & Glen	Johnson
* Yellow-thr. Warbler	23	1	Jamestown	Sundell
* Pine Warbler	13F	1	Tift NP	Watson, D'Anna
"	17-27	5 reports	lakeplains	
* Palm Warbler	36F	6	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson
"	27	1	Tift NP	Watson
* Bl.-&-wh. Warbler	21F	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	27	1	Tift NP	Rising, Watson
"	27	1	Times Bch, Bilo	Hess

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
*Ovenbird	28F	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna et al
*Northern Waterthrush	27F	2	Tifft NP	Rising, Watson
La. Waterthrush	18	2	Pomfret Twp	Moshers
*Rose-br. Grosbeak	28F	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	1	Pomfret(f)	Moshers
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Holmes(EABC)
Rufous-s. Towhee	4	1	Sheridan Twp	C. Budniewski
Amer. Tree Sparrow	21L	1	Four Mile Cr. SP	D'Anna
Chipping Sparrow	5F	1	AmityLake	V&MPitzrick
"	11	4	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
Field Sparrow	2F	1	Amity Twp	M. Pitzrick
"	7	1	Tifft NP	D & D Suggs
*Vesper Sparrow	6F	1	Yates Twp	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Somerset Twp	D'Anna
*Sacannah Sparrow	4F	3	Amity Twp	V. Pitzrick
"	8	1	Iroquois NWR	Potter
Fox Sparrow	3-8	1-2	Amity Twp	M. Pitzrick
"	6-23	1-3	Tifft NP	Many observers
"	8	2	Buffalo	Mueller
"	12	2	Charlotte Twp	Budniewski
Swamp Sparrow	6F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	11	1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
White-thr. Sparrow	1	1	Tonawanda	Brasure
"	1-29	1-2	AmityLake	V. Pitzrick
White-cr. Sparrow	25F-30	2	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
*Bobolink	30F	2	Chautauqua Twp	Mosher
*Brewer's Blackbird	12,21	2,3	Eden Twp	Andrle et al
"	13	6	Eden Twp	Watson, D'Anna
"	28	2	Eden Twp	Rising, Galas
*Northern Oriole	28F	1	Pomfret Twp	Rew, Buck
Purple Finch	1-30	1-20	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	13,27,28	1,10,14	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
"	21	6	Beaver Meadow NS	Holmes
"	28	12	Pomfret Twp	Rew, Buck
Pine Siskin	17	2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	18	1	Pomfret Twp(f)	Rew, Buck
"	27	1	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
Evening Grosbeak	1-30	6 reports	80 max. E & S of Buffalo	

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	138
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue ... (incl. 8 on Bird Count)	51
Total for year.	189

NOTICE

The Buffalo Ornithological Society has just published the 6th edition of the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York & Adjacent Ontario. This edition will be effective as of May 1, 1991 for reported sightings. Anyone wishing to order a copy of this handy, pocket-sized volume may do so by sending your name and address along with \$2.00 for each copy to: Audrey Horbett, 156 Westcliff Dr., West Seneca, NY 14224 (checks should be made payable to: Buffalo Ornithological Society).

REPORT OF 1991
APRIL B.O.S. BIRD COUNT
April 14, 1991

Weather:

AM - mostly sunny in the late morning with temperatures in the mid 40's. Winds and clouds increased in the mid morning.

PM - mostly cloudy in the early afternoon with increasing wind in the early afternoon with wind increasing to 20 mph from the SE. Temperatures in the 50's.

Compilation:

The following is a list of species on the count followed by the total number observed. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses. Underlined names indicate a species for which an acceptable written verification was received. F represents first date for spring migration. * represents first date for the year.

Loons - Ducks

Common Loon 22	Northern Shoveler 108
Pied-billed Grebe 39	Gadwall 67
Horned Grebe 12	American Wigeon 407
Double Cr. Cormorant 59	Canvasback 8 (7,9)
American Bittern 7	Redhead 14
Great Blue Heron 282	Ring-necked Duck 906
Great Egret 1 (23)	Greater Scaup 2108
Black-Crowned Night-Heron 144 (9)	Lesser Scaup 284
Tundra Swan 11	unidentified Scaup 110
Mute Swan 2 (11,20)	Oldsquaw 729
Snow Goose 1 (5)	Common Goldeneye 66
Canada Goose 56488	Bufflehead 554
Wood Duck 352	Hooded Merganser 59
Green-winged Teal 139	Common Merganser 326
American Black Duck 41	Red-breasted Merganser 7804
Mallard 1519	Ruddy Duck 23 (5,13,21)
Northern Pintail 101	unidentified ducks 100
Blue-winged Teal 236	

Raptors-Rails

Turkey Vulture 318	<u>Merlin</u> 1 (11)
Osprey 7	unidentified hawks 10
Northern Harrier 97	Ring-necked Pheasant 47
Sharp-shinned Hawk 88	Ruffed Grouse 37
Cooper's Hawk 22	Wild Turkey 94
Red-shouldered Hawk 11	*Virginia Rail F 2 (7,11)
Broad-winged Hawk 1 (20)	*Sora F 3 (11,22)
Red-tailed Hawk 258	Common Moorhen 4 (7)
Rough-legged Hawk 31	American Coot 129
American Kestrel 234	

Plovers-Terns

Killdeer 411
Greater Yellowlegs 16
Lesser Yellowlegs 7 (1,27)
*Spotted Sandpiper F 2(7,24)
Pectoral Sandpiper 336
Common Snipe 112
American Woodcock 43

unidentified shorebirds 60
Bonaparte's Gull 1413
Ring-billed Gull 72,517
Herring Gull 5642
Glaucous Gull 1 (9)
Great Black-backed Gull 262
Caspian Tern 38
Common Tern 15

Doves-Swallows

Rock Dove 2028
Mourning Dove 1171
Eastern Screech Owl 2 (12,19)
Great Horned Owl 25
*Barred Owl 3 (18,19,28)
Short-eared Owl 2 (3)
*Whip-poor-will 1 (7)
Belted Kingfisher 103
Red-headed Woodpecker 3 (3,20)
Red-bellied Woodpecker 22
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker 21

Downy Woodpecker 291
Hairy Woodpecker 53
Northern Flicker 536
Pileated Woodpecker 11
Eastern Phoebe 133
Horned Lark 38
Purple Martin 4 (8,11,22)
Tree Swallow 1656
North. Rough-w. Swallow 9
Barn Swallow 22

Jays-Starlings

Blue Jay 656
American Crow 2573
Black-capped Chickadee 1286
Tufted Titmouse 62
Red-breasted Nuthatch 25
White-breasted Nuthatch 195
Brown Creeper 166
Carolina Wren 14
Winter Wren 14
Golden-crowned Kinglet 548
Ruby-crowned Kinglet F 39

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 1 (5)
Eastern Bluebird 76
Hermit Thrush 13
American Robin 8068
Gray Catbird 4 (14,27,28)
Northern Mockingbird 5 (3,6,7)
*Brown Thrasher F 4 (17,20,21)
American Pipit 142
Cedar Waxwing 189
European Starling 12,378

Warblers-Finches

Yellow-rumped Warbler 35
Pine Warbler 2 (5,21)
*Louisiana Waterthrush F 1 (14)
Northern Cardinal 551
Rufous-sided Towhee 19
American Tree Sparrow 115
Chipping Sparrow 91
Field Sparrow 45

White-crowned Sparrow 4 (11,19,28)
Dark-eyed Junco 1491
Red-winged Blackbird 8153
Eastern Meadowlark 261
Rusty Blackbird 349
Brewer's Blackbird 7 (3)
Common Grackle 7509
Brown-headed Cowbird 1581

Vesper Sparrow 13
Savannah Sparrow 113
Fox Sparrow 5
Song Sparrow 1513
Swamp Sparrow 84
White-throated Sparrow 73

Purple Finch 94
House Finch 1539
Red Crossbill 9 (26)
Pine Siskin 2 (28)
American Goldfinch 996
Evening Grosbeak 1774
House Sparrow 1665

STATISTICS

Species Count: 136 - Above Average

Total Individuals: 216,074 - Above Average

Observers: 275 - Above Average

RECORD HIGH COUNTS:

Total - 13

- Double-crested Cormorant - 59
- Mute Swan - 2 (tie)
- Wood Duck - 352 (4 yrs. straight)
- Northern Shoveler - 108
- Northern Harrier - 97
- Sora - 3
- Common Moorhen - 7 (tie)
- Caspian Tern - 38
- Whip-Poor-Will - 1 (first ever)
- Tufted Titmouse - 62
- Brown Creeper - 166
- Pine Warbler - 3
- Brewer's Blackbird - 9

OTHER HIGH COUNTS:

Total - 6

- American Bittern - 7 (42 yr high)
- American Wigeon - 457 (2nd highest)
- Greater Scaup - 2108 (12 yr high)
- Carolina Wren - 14 (2nd highest)
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - 548 (2nd highest)
- Evening Grosbeak - 1771 (18 yr high)

LOW COUNTS:

Total - 9

- Horned Grebe - 12 (26 yr low)
- American Black Duck - 41
- Common Goldeneye - 11 (All Time Low)
- Hairy Woodpecker - 53 (16 yr low)
- Fox Sparrow - 5 (41 yr low)
- Song Sparrow - 1513 (31 yr low)
- White-crowned Sparrow - 4 (24 yr low)
- Red-winged Blackbird - 8153 (37 yr low)
- House Sparrow - 1665 (39 yr low)

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS:

- Great Egret
- Purple Sandpiper - 7
- Glaucous Gull
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

OBSERVERS: Compilers names are underlined.

- 1) Gary Novosel
- 2) Ed Crohn, M. Stegmeier
- 3) Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, Walter and Harriet Klabunde
- 4) Bob Brock, William Watson
- 5) Dick Christensen, Peg Christensen, Gail Seamans, Marion Smith, Ken Cohen and class, Morgan and Jocelyn Jones
- 6) Joe Thill, John Thill, Bob Andrie, Jim Gregory
- 7) Marcy Foster, Drew Campbell, Brad Clements, Kayo Roy, Al Smith
- 8) Mike Zebehazy
- 9) Don Roberson, Marcia O'Bara, Barb Henderson, Peter Yoerg, Tom Burke and fam., Bill Burch
- 10) Dick Collins, Tim Collins, Mike Galas, Jerry Rising, Kathy Kahle
- 11) Alec Humann, Marjorie Hurwitz, Bruce Johnson, Jane Heyer, Alice McHale, Marg Smith, Ruth Williams
- 12) Tom Harper, Ray Franz, Linda Holmes, Ann Bauer, Cy Wolfling
- 13) Dave Keller, Bob & Eileen Hull, Marie Keller, Gail Seamans, Ken Cohen
- 14) Barbara Walker, Ken & Barb Brandis, Louis Abbott, Phyllis Hansen, Doug Happ, Mrs. Hunley, B. Kalonaros, B & L Leonard, B & E Mauser, Bobbie McDonald, M. Millbauer, Anges Orfeo, R. Stahl
- 15) Bill Bogacki, Art & Olga Rosche
- 16) Ron Lang, Gil Lang
- 17) Wavel & Maxine Barber, Jerry & Nina Chapple, Audrey Horbett, Marian Dornhafter, Bill & Barb Welker
- 18) Bruce Chilton, Art Schaffner
- 19) Katherine Palmer, M. Kaufman, Mr. & Mrs. Lang, F. Clancey, J. Kolakowsky, R. Andrews, B. Cronk, B. Fancher, F. Hodnett, E. Marvin, H. Morse, R. Nicholson, J. Perry, V. Rice, E. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. E. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. O. Williams, E. Steadman, A. Evans, L. Mullen, L. Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. R. Wilson, L. Hotchkiss.
- 20) Terry Mahoney, C & R. Budniewski, S. Clarke, M. Dolce, P. Farver, J. Flary, J. Goetz, J. Gula Sr., C & P Hanlon, D. Klaybor, T. Mahoney, G. Mezzio, T. Mosher, D & L Neveu, B. Ruska, M. Sanden, A. Schafer, T. Taft, D & T Welch
- 21) Bob Sundell, D. Cordosi, J. Heilman, R. Laha, C. Roby, Dot Pildblad, A. Seaberg, S. Suckow
- 22) Bob Sundell, R. Laha, B & L O'Brien, D. Cardosi

- 23) Bob Sundell, D. Cardosi, R. Laha, S & J Maggio
- 24) Tim Baird, Linda Johnson-Davis, J. Van Scoy
- 25) Tim Baird, Meris Aaron, D. Baker, A. Bordonaro, L. Bordonaro, A. Church, J. & R Van Scoy
- 26) Doris Burton, L. Burton, Connie Coon, B & B Smally, J. Young, L & R. Bump, A. & M Scott, G & N Pizza
- 27) Doris Burton, D. Hulbert, El King, L. Simons, F. Degroff, R. G. & L. Brown, G. Lundberg, J. Dickenson, W. Sanford, J & H. Holbrook, N. Ives, H. Link, M. Barnett, B & C James, B. Smith
- 28) Clarence Klingensmith, E. Brooks, C. Coch, Z. Coombs, J. Copenheaver, C & P Culley, E. Cushing, L. Deverell, A. & R. Eisenhardt, P & T Finlay, C. Gradoni, M. Klingensmith, K. Mac Donald, A. Ninos, M. Ormsby, B. Perry, M. Peterson, D. Rase, E. Thomas, S. Wood, R. Allen, D & F. Bayless, L & D Brink, V & W. Brownell, P. DuBrevil, M. Hayes, V. Ide, C & V Sharett, B & W. Kellogg, E & M Mason, L. Phelan, R. & E. Allen, M. Cannon, E. Kent, K & M McClure, B. Thompson, M & M Adams, D. Burton, L. S. & M. Hotchkiss, R. Pitzrick, V. Pitzrick, J. & C. Browning, D. Coats, E & L Rositzke, T. vossler, P & M Fuller, J. Allen, H. Babcock, M. Brown, C & B Burdick, D. Converson, F & S Cronauer, G & A Dunham, H. Graves.

Compiler: RICHARD COLLINS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please note the following change of Address.

Roberta McDonald
1614 Huth Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
Tel: 773-2182

BOS MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

- June 30: Sunday. Letchworth State Park for nesting warblers. Meet at 5:30 at the municipal parking lot in Wales Center on route 20A, 4 mi east of the Rt. 400 Expressway. Make reservations with Don Roberson (283-5359) so he can cancel the trip by called everyone if the weather is unfit.
- July 21: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie. Meet at 7:00 am at Vermont & Busti or at 7:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi (1 km) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).
- Aug. 11: Sunday. Mystery Trip. Go where the birds are. Call Bill Burch (773-3690) a day or two beforehand for details as to when and where to meet.
- Aug. 25: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie. Meet at 7:00 am at Vermont & Busti or at 7:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer:

Jane Heyer
296 Westchester Blvd
Kenmore, NY 14210
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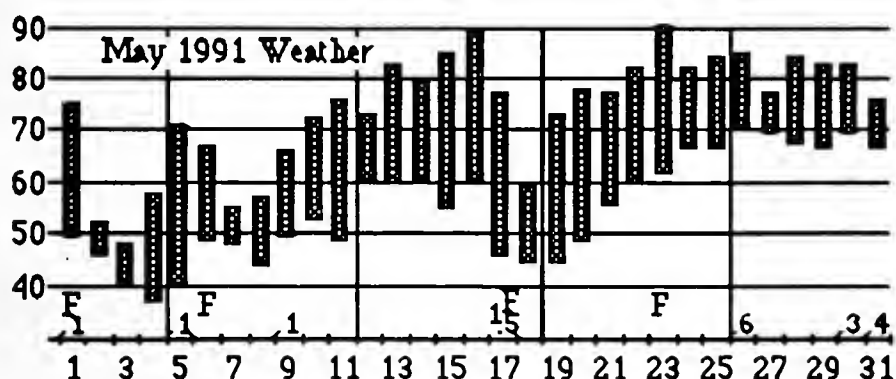
June 1991

Number 6

THE MONTH: May 1991

The Buffalo argument for global warming continues. May 1991, according to the National Weather Service was the warmest May in the records of the region. The temperature average, 64.3°F , was 8° above normal with the temperature exceeding 80° on 11 days. Record highs were established on the 13th, 16th, and 23rd. The three month period from March 1 to May 31 (the Weather Bureau's spring) was also warmest — and wettest — in record annals.

All this brought Lake Erie temperature to 66° by month end, 3° higher than the previous record of 63° set in 1944. Those of us who love the temperature moderating effects of this lake will have less help in the summer to follow.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 4th was a Saturday, the 5th a Sunday. Data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

anchored over the region from the 13th to the 15th and from the 26th through the end of the month.

On 21 of the 31 days the winds had a southerly component, and except on the first they were generally moderate. Days were quite beautiful with the region receiving over 60% of possible sunlight.

Beautiful perhaps, but very tough on birders. Lush foliage developed very early, creating severe problems in simply finding birds, to say nothing of identifying them. And the warm nights encouraged a rapid pass through the area for many mi-

Precipitation for the month was also above average, but not as far from normal as earlier months. The total was 3.1 inches, 0.2 inch above average. Almost half of this rain fell in thunderstorms on May 17th.

The only significant storm was on May 1st which ushered in the month with severe thunderstorms, whose winds gusted to 85 mph., and mini tornadoes. Two of these damaged buildings in Eden and Java, the latter including the Beaver Meadow Audubon Center.

In addition to the fronts shown on the chart, stationery fronts

grants, what Terry Moser calls an "over the top" migration. Finally, the high temperatures made midday birding too much like that of July and August.

Let's hope that that is what it was, because the May Count on the 19th set a great many lows and Steve Eaton described this as "the most birdless spring I've seen since spring of 1950 when I came to [Cattaraugus County]." I for one am worried.

Consider in this regard the group counts from the May 19 BOS Census. In the chart I have recorded in boldface count declines from the averages of earlier decades. The excellent count results of last year which produced some record highs argue against this seeming decline. On the other hand even with that high count averaged in (the 90s column) most of the drops are considerable. In particular, look at those warbler numbers. You have to go back to the 1930s, when coverage was much thinner, to find numbers this low. Of course you cannot base an argument for decline on one year's data and I have already remarked on the foliage problem. But this record should alert us to possible problems.

BOS May Counts Group Data	May 19 1991	AVERAGE COUNTS BY DECADE							34-91 Ave
		30s	40s	50s	60s	70s	80s	90s	
Loons,Grebes,Cormorants	334	19	40	37	27	45	60	283	49
Hérons	300	172	261	255	195	310	311	340	264
Swans,Geese,Ducks	3055	509	647	623	758	1182	1971	2970	1081
Hawks and Owls	587	96	143	127	202	409	476	489	270
Gruiformes	142	170	203	211	230	254	188	166	209
Shorebirds	909	490	566	780	1139	1054	1022	974	885
Gulls and Terns	20428	2236	2262	5865	6140	3602	9793	22504	5966
Woodpeckers	402	251	275	359	812	1024	665	505	598
Flycatchers	1017	351	491	631	815	1105	957	1056	781
Swallows	4191	1636	2881	3968	7164	5587	6033	6210	4910
ChickadeesGnatcatchers	1065	349	386	464	917	1573	1448	1150	931
Thrushes	5559	1340	1796	2596	4875	6378	6100	5730	4215
Mimic Thrushes	593	168	385	656	897	1038	824	638	716
Vircos	498	97	202	289	318	516	400	556	338
Warblers	2839	1898	3304	3345	3148	4399	4182	3475	3548
Tanagers to Buntings	1055	173	297	456	757	1518	1305	1147	838
Sparrows	2493	1649	2187	2488	4721	5335	3793	2838	3529
Icterids	10197	2111	3699	7806	20281	22770	14646	10950	12933
Finches	2245	690	1224	1778	2750	3639	3345	3546	2467
Foreign Introductions*	8163	*	*	*	*	10318	9662	9582	9895
Native Non-Passerines	27719	4240	4941	8974	10540	9347	16167	30065	10393
Native Passerines	33520	11007	17524	25340	48627	56698	45119	39015	36826

* Because Rock Doves were sporadically counted before 1971, values are omitted.

Because of the concentration on first records in the reports (my continuing criticism of those reports) it is difficult to pick out migration peaks. The Williamsville Glen records, however, show peaking counts of warblers on April 28, May 1, May 6, May 8, and then May 10-12, with numbers increasing up to 108 warblers of 22 species, the maximum, on the 12th, the day of the BOS hike there.

Now consider some of this May's records in comparison with those of the previous five years, 1986-1990:

Cormorants show an exponential increase on the May Count, better than doubling each year since the 1988 low of 11 to this year's 315 high. The single Great Egret on the 4th represents a low for these six years.

The two Snow Goose records represent late dates for six years, the only other record over that time a single bird on May 1, 1988. Dabbling ducks were about average for the period, but divers were few — not down much from recent years, however.

Purple Sandpipers remained through May 7, a late record, but only one day later than last year and not as late as the record of May 15, 1987. The Ruff seen on the 4th was the only one recorded in the six year period.

This year's 6 Bonaparte's Gulls on the Count compare unfavorably with 584 last year, but as recently as 1986 there were only 3 on the corresponding census. Two Northern Saw-whet Owl records in May were the first for the month in six years. Both Steve Eaton and Ray Budniewski report hearing their calls. Harold Axtell's Whip-poor-will on May 8 is noteworthy as the 223rd species he has recorded in his 1.5 acre Fort Erie yard over a 22 year period. We'll look for many additions to that remarkable record over the years ahead.

The Northern Horned Lark record continues poor with the 9 on the Count the only reports for the month — possibly because others were not considered noteworthy. On the other hand the 150 American Pipits on the 11th is a recent high, beating 95 on May 10, 1986.

Both Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers, hybrids of the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers, were reported; but the Golden-winged Warbler barely survives in the region. Don Clark reports banding a Lawrence's Warbler on May 1. Other uncommon warblers: no Yellow-throated (seen in 3 of previous 5 years), 1 Prothonotary (4 of 5), 1 Worm-eating (1 of 5), Swainson's absent (2 of 5), no Kentucky (5 of 5), no Connecticut (3 of 5), and 3 Yellow-breasted Chats (5 of 5).

The Summer Tanager was the first in the six year period. No Rusty Blackbirds this month (seen in all of the previous 5 years). — G. Rising

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	26	1	off Bertie Twp, Ont.	Watson et al
D.-crest. Cormorant	31	6	Cold Spring Twp.	Sundell
American Bittern	8, 13	3, 1	Tifft NP	D'Anna, Watson
"	10, 21, 25	1-3	Iroq NWR & Tona WMA	Roberson, D'Anna et al
*Least Bittern	21F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	27	1	Tonawanda WMA	Galas
Great Egret	4	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Basure et al
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	4, 5, 7	2, 5, 7	Tifft NP	Brasure, Watson et al
"	6	100	Niagara Falls, Ont	Roberson
"	25	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, O'Donnell
Mute Swan	4	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Brasure et al
Snow Goose	4, 10L	1	Iroquois NWR	Chilton, Roberson
Northern Shoveler	10, 25	8, 1	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
"	27	2	Tifft NP	Watson
Common Goldeneye	26	1	Bertie Twp, Ont	Watson et al
Hooded Merganser	27-31	1-2ad+4-6y	Ward Twp	Brooks

Ruddy Duck	25	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Roberson et al
Osprey	1-18	8 reports	throughout WNY	Humann
Bald Eagle	25	1	Crescent Bch, Ont	Roberson, Andrie et al
"	25, 31	3 imm	Iroq. NWR (not @ nest)	Galas
"	27	1 ad.	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
Sharp-sh. Hawk	29	1	over Niag. Falls	Andrie
Broad-winged Hawk	30	1	over Hamburg Twp	D'Anna, Potter
*Bl.-bell. Plover	5F	1	Porter Twp	Mosher, Farner
"	13, 14	1, 1	Pomfret Twp	Watson
*Semipalmated Plover	18F	7	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
"	21	7	Wilson Twp	D'Anna, Byron (BOS)
"	26	1-2	Rock Point PP	Holmes, Ruhl
Greater Yellowlegs	10L	1	East Aurora	D'Anna et al
Lesser Yellowlegs	5	32	Porter Twp	Brassure et al
"	10L	6	Rock Pt. PP	Holmes
Solitary Sandpiper	1-21	1-10	East Aurora	Mosher
"	10	1	Pomfret Twp	Hess
"	11	1	Tonawanda Twp	D'Anna et al
*Whimbrel	25F	25	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Byron (BOS)
"	26	17, 3	Rock Pt, Morgan's Pt.	Humann
*Ruddy Turnstone	25F	1	Crescent Bch, Ont	Watson, Byron (BOS)
"	26	2, 8	Rock Pt, Morgan's Pt.	Watson, Byron (BOS)
Red Knot	26	1	Rock Pt. PP	D'Anna, Byron (BOS)
Semipalm. Sandpiper	26	50+	Rock Pt. PP	Watson, D'Anna
*Least Sandpiper	4F, 21	3, 6	Wilson Twp	Brasure, Watson
"	10, 26	3, 1	Rock Pt. PP	Watson
"	18	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson et
*White-r. Sandpiper	18F, 25	3	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Byron (BOS)
"	26	2	Rock Pt. PP	D'Anna et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	5L	20	Porter Twp	D'Anna
Purple Sandpiper	7L	7	Goat Island	Brasure et al
Dunlin	25	7	Iroquois NWR	Humann
"	25	18	Crescent Bch, Ont	D'Anna, Byron (BOS)
"	26	81	Rock Pt. PP	D'Anna, Watson
*Ruff	4	1	Porter Twp	Brasure, Watson et al
*Short-b. Dowitcher	10F, 26	1, 3	Rock Point PP	Watson, D'Anna
*Wilson's Phalarope	4	1	Porter Twp.	Roberson et al
Caspian Tern	25	1	Shadigee	D'Anna, Byron (BOS)
"	26	2	Rock Point PP	Roberson et al
*Black Tern	7F	1	Mud Lake, Ont.	Roberson et al
"	10	2	Iroquois NWR	Brasure
*Black-b. Cuckoo	5F	1	Tift NP	Humann
"	6	1	Buffalo	Roberson et al
"	10	1	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Watson
*Yellow-b. Cuckoo	18F	1	Iroquois NWR	V. Pitzrick
"	22	1	Amity Twp.	Eaton
N. Saw-whet Owl	8	1	Carrollton Twp.	Budniewski
"	10	1	Charlotte Twp.	D'Anna
*Common Nighthawk	10	1	Amherst Twp.	Hess
"	14	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Sundell
"	17	35	Jamestown	Axtell
Whip-poor-will	8	1	Rosehill Rd., Ont.	Mosher
"	16, 19	1, 1	Pomfret Twp.	Brooks
*Ruby-t. Hummingbird	4F	1	Alfred Twp.	

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
"	5	1	Boston Twp. (f)	R&G Lange
"	5	1	Sheridan Twp.	R&C Budniewski
Red-headed Wdpkr.	2	1	Pomfret Twp.	Mosher
"	7-24	1	Amity Twp.	V&R Pitzrick
"	12, 18	4, 3	Point Gratiot	Flory, Goetz
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	13, 22	1, 1	Amity Lake	V. Pitzrick
"	27	1	Hanover Twp.	Flory
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	12F	1	Pomfret Twp.	Mosher
"	17	1	Amity Twp.	V. Pitzrick
* Acadian Flycatcher	18F, 19, 24 (PDBA)	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Rising, Roberson
"	18F, 23 (PDBA)	1, 1	Chestnut Rdg. Park	Lange, Andrie
"	22 (PDBA)	3	Pomfret Twp.	Mosher et al
* Alder Flycatcher	14F, 15-31	1-7	Amity Lake	V. Pitzrick
"	16	1	Carrollton Twp	Eaton
* Willow Flycatcher	18F	1	Clarence Twp	Watson
"	21	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
Least Flycatcher	1	1	East Aurora	Holmes
* Great Cr. Flycatcher	1F	1	Amity Twp	V. Pitzrick
"	1F	2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	1F	1	Williamsville Glen	Brasure
Eastern Bluebird	1	2	Springville	Holmes
Bank Swallow	4	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
* Cliff Swallow	4F	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
"	18	2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	25	3	Shadigee	Watson et al
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	11 reports	throughout WNY	
Carolina Wren	4	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
"	4-27	1	Tifft NP	Many observers
"	10	1	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
"	13	1	Canadaway Cr. NS	Flory et al
"	26	1	Eden Twp	Andrie
* Marsh Wren	4F, 5	1, 2	Tifft NP	Watson et al
"	10	1	Tonawanda WMA	Roberson
Golden-cr. Kinglet	30 (PDBA)	6	Ward Twp	Brooks
Veery	3	1	Carrollton Twp	Eaton
* Gray-ch. Thrush	10F	2	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
"	14	1	Allegany Co.	Brasure
* Swainson's Thrush	6F	3	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
"	9	2	Williamsville Glen	Rising, Brasure et al
Wood Thrush	5	1	Ward Twp	Brooks
Gray Catbird	2	1	Williamsville Glen	Brasure
American Pipet	4	20	Somerset Twp	Chilton
"	11	150-200	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
"	12L	3	Clarence Twp	Watson, Galas
* White-eyed Vireo	5	1-2	Tifft NP	Watson (BOS)
"	8	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna
* Yellow-thr. Vireo	6F	1	Mud Lake, Ont	D'Anna
"	8	1	Williamsville Glen	Holmes, Ruhl
Warbling Vireo	1	1	East Aurora	Holmes
* Philadelphia Vireo	8F	1	Williamsville Glen	Holmes, Ruhl
"	10	2	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
* Red-eyed Vireo	4F, 5	1, 1	Tifft NP	Watson et al
"	7	2	East Aurora	Holmes

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Blue-w. Warbler	1	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Golden-wing. Warbler	8	1	Goat Island	Roberson, O'Donnell
"Brewster's Warbler"	10	2	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
"	25	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Watson et al
*"Lawrence's Warbler"	6	1	Buffalo	Humann
*Tennessee Warbler	4F	1	Tifft NP	Brasure et al
"	6	8	WilliamsvilleGlen	Brasure
*Orange-cr. Warbler	10F	1	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
"	11	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
Nashville Warbler	10	15	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
*Northern Parula	5F, 13	1, 1	Tifft NP	Watson et al
"	6	1	Mud Lake, Ont	D'Anna
"	7-11	6 reports	Lake plains & Alfred	
Chestnut-s. Warbler	1	1	WilliamsvilleGlen	Roberson, Insalaco
"	10	25	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
Magnolia Warbler	5F	5	Ward Twp	Brooks
"	5F	1	Tifft NP	Watson (BOS)
"	5F	2	East Aurora	Holmes
*Cape May Warbler	6F	2	Goat Island	Roberson
"	6F	1	Buffalo	Humann
*Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	5F	2	Tifft NP	Watson (BOS)
"	6	1	Mud Lake, Ont	D'Anna
"	6	5	Niagara Falls	Roberson
"	6	1	WilliamsvilleGlen	Brasure
"	10	12	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
Yellow-r. Warbler	21L	2	Tifft NP	Brasure
"	26-31	1-8	Alfred & Ward Twps.	Brooks
Blackburnian Warbler	5	6	Ward Twp	Brooks
Pine Warbler	1	1	Lewiston Twp	D'Anna, Potter
"	1	2	WilliamsvilleGlen	Brasure
"	9L	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
*Prairie Warbler	1F-23, 24-31 (PDBA)	1-6	Amity & Ward Twps	V. Pitzrick
"	18	2	Beaver Meadow NS	Holmes
*Bay-br. Warbler	7F	5	Mud Lake, Ont	Roberson, Burch
"	9	2	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
"	9	1	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
"	9	1	WilliamsvilleGlen	Rising et al
*Blackpoll Warbler	11F	2	S. Valley Twp	Budniewski (LEBC)
"	12	2	WilliamsvilleGlen	Roberson, Rising (BOS)
*Cerulean Warbler	8F	2	WilliamsvilleGlenn	Holmes Ruhl
"	8F	5	Iroquois NWR	Potter, House
"	9	1	Wheatfield Twp	Potter, D'Anna
*American Redstart	2F	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
"	5	3	Tifft NP	Watson (BOS)
*Worm-eating Warbler	10	1	WilliamsvilleGlen	Rising
Ovenbird	1	1	Amity Twp	V. Pitzrick
"	5	2	Ward Twp	Brooks
"	5	1	Carrollton Twp	Eaton
"	5	3	Charlotte Twp	Budniewski
Northern Waterthrush	1	1	WilliamsvilleGlen	Brasure
La. Waterthrush	1	1	Amity Twp	V. Pitzrick
*Mourning Warbler	9F	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
"	10	1	Tonawanda Twp	Roberson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Yellowthroat	5	1	Ward Twp	Brooks
"	5	1	Tifft NP	Watson (BOS)
* Hooded Warbler	5F	1	Carrollton Twp	Eaton
"	6	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
* Wilson's Warbler	10F	2	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Rising et al
"	11	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
"	26	1	Rock Pt. PP	Potter, Byron (BOS)
* Canada Warbler	10F	1	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
"	12	1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
"	12	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Yellow-br. Chat	26	1	Wainfleet Twp, Ont	Galas, Byron (BOS)
* Summer Tanager	6	1	Mud Lake, Ont	Watson, D'Anna et al
* Scarlet Tanager	2F	1	Jamestown	Sundell
"	5	1	Tifft NP	Watson (BOS)
Rose-br. Grosbeak	1	1	Jamestown	Sundell
"	2	1	Carrollton Twp	Eaton
"	2	1	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
* Indigo Bunting	7F	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	1	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
Vesper Sparrow	1	1	Springville	Holmes
"	29	1	Newstead Twp	Chilton
* Grasshopper Sparrow	4F, 11, 29	2, 4, 4	Cambria Twp	Chilton
"	10	1	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
"	11, 19	2, 1	Pomfret Twp	Mosher
Henslow's Sparrow	21, 25	2, 1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, et al
"	26	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
* Lincoln's Sparrow	6F	1	Buffalo	Humann
"	8	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna
"	10	2	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson
"	10	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising, Yoerg
"	10	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	10	2	Rock Pt. PP	Brasure et al
White-cr. Sparrow	1	1	Amity Lake	V. Pitzrick
"	1	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Dark-eyed Junco	10L	1	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson
"	10L	1	Tonawanda WMA	Roberson
Bobolink	4	4	Cambria Twp	Chilton
"	4	1	Porter Twp	D'Anna, Watson
* Orchard Oriole	21	2	Porter Twp	D'Anna
Northern Oriole	2	1	Amity Lake	V. Pitzrick
"	2	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Purple Finch	1-31	9 reports	E & S of Buffalo	
Evening Grosbeak	4	6	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
"	16L	2	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded 189
 Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue . . . (incl. 5 on Bird Count) 57
 Total for year. 246

Report of the 55th B.O.S. May Bird Count

Date: May 19, 1991

Compiler: Morgan Jones

Weather: A very pleasant day with 12.7 hours of sunshine. Temperatures ranged from 44° F in the early morning to 73° in the afternoon. Light winds were from the northeast, averaging 8 miles per hour and with a peak gust of 22 miles per hour. This was another early spring with trees in almost complete foliage.

Compilation: The following is a list of species on the count followed by the total number observed. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers appear in parentheses. Underscored names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** and **L** represent first and last dates for the spring migration; * represents first record for the year.

Loons – Ducks

Common Loon	9		Northern Pintail	7	(2,10)
Pied-billed Grebe	10		Blue-winged Teal	75	
Double-crested Cormorant	315		Northern Shoveler	3	(10)
American Bittern	5	(10,12,28)	Gadwall	14	(10,23)
Great Blue Heron	245		American Wigeon	9	(8,10,11)
Green-backed Heron	42		Redhead	1	(20)
Black-crowned Night Heron	8		Lesser Scaup	1	(2)
<u>Mute Swan</u>	2	(10)	unidentified scaup	2	
Canada Goose	1654		White-winged Scoter	35	(1)
Wood Duck	191		Hooded Merganser	28	
Green-winged Teal	11	(1,10)	Common Merganser	10	
American Black Duck	7		Red-breasted Merganser	189	
Mallard	815		Ruddy Duck	1	(1)

Raptors – Rails

Turkey Vulture	253		American Kestrel	74	
Osprey	6		raptor species	1	
Bald Eagle	5	(10,24,26)	Ring-necked Pheasant	39	
Northern Harrier	38		Ruffed Grouse	26	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8		Wild Turkey	36	
Cooper's Hawk	5		Virginia Rail	3	(3,12)
Red-shouldered Hawk	14		Sora	3	(11,22)
Broad-winged Hawk	16		Common Moorhen	25	(5,10)
Red-tailed Hawk	145		American Coot	10	(5,10)
Rough-legged Hawk	2	(17,26)			

Plovers – Terns

Semipalmated Plover	16		Pectoral Sandpiper	2	(6)
Killdeer	482		Dunlin	122	
Greater Yellowlegs	2	(10,17)	Short-billed Dowitcher	2	(2)
Lesser Yellowlegs	6	(2,26)	Common Snipe	9	
Solitary Sandpiper	7		American Woodcock	6	
Spotted Sandpiper	107		Bonaparte's Gull	6	(3,20,22)
Upland Sandpiper	4	(4,12)	Ring-billed Gull	19379	
Whimbrel	2	(7)	Herring Gull	879	
Ruddy Turnstone	63	(6,7)	Great Black-backed Gull	70	
<u>Red Knot</u> *	10	(6,7)	Caspian Tern	8	(6,21)
Sanderling	2	(6)	Common Tern	70	
Semipalmated Sandpiper *	48	F	Black Tern	16	(10)
Least Sandpiper	19				

Doves - Swallows

Rock Dove	1270		Pileated Woodpecker	30	
Mourning Dove	1078		Olive-sided Flycatcher	2	(9,27)
Black-billed Cuckoo	22		Eastern Wood Pewee	76	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	8		<u>Acadian Flycatcher</u>	2	(5,24)
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	(12,20,26)	Alder Flycatcher	22	
Great Horned Owl	10		Willow Flycatcher	57	
Barred Owl	6		Least Flycatcher	83	
Common Nighthawk	17		empidonax species	2	
Whip-poor-will	1	(20)	Eastern Phoebe	200	
Chimney Swift	244		Great Crested Flycatcher	217	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	172		Eastern Kingbird	356	
Belted Kingfisher	59		Horned Lark	9	
Red-headed Woodpecker	13	(20,22)	Purple Martin	331	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	18		Tree Swallow	1223	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	6		No. Rough-winged Swallow	355	
Downy Woodpecker	115		Bank Swallow	563	
Hairy Woodpecker	37		Cliff Swallow	145	
Northern Flicker	183		Barn Swallow	1574	

Jays - Starlings

Blue Jay	907		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14	
American Crow	1682		Eastern Bluebird	186	
Black-capped Chickadee	550		Veery	102	
Tufted Titmouse	37		Swainson's Thrush	15	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9		Hermit Thrush	15	
White-breasted Nuthatch	96		Wood Thrush	221	
Brown Creeper	8	(14,18,28)	American Robin	5020	
Carolina Wren	17		Gray Catbird	545	
House Wren	284		Mockingbird	11	
Winter Wren	8	(14,18,20)	Brown Thrasher	37	
Marsh Wren	13		American Pipit	7	(27)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	10	(5,13,28)	Cedar Waxwing	152	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	19		European Starling	4463	

Vireos - Warblers

White-eyed Vireo	2	(7,9)	Pine Warbler	4	(9,14,25)
Solitary Vireo	25		Prairie Warbler	8	(9,25,28)
Yellow-throated Vireo	9		Palm Warbler	1	(4)
Warbling Vireo	133		Bay-breasted Warbler	7	
Philadelphia Vireo	12		Blackpoll Warbler	28	
Red-eyed Vireo	317		Cerulean Warbler	22	
Blue-winged Warbler	101		Black-and-White Warbler	6	
Golden-winged Warbler	4	(10,13,25)	American Redstart	203	
Tennessee Warbler	21		Prothonotary Warbler *	1	(5)
Nashville Warbler	18		Ovenbird	132	
Northern Parula	1	(20)	Northern Waterthrush	11	
Yellow Warbler	1255		Louisiana Waterthrush	8	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	146		Mourning Warbler	28	
Magnolia Warbler	79		Common Yellowthroat	525	
Cape May Warbler	1	(28)	Hooded Warbler	39	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	8		Wilson's Warbler	7	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	61		Canada Warbler	20	
Black-throated Green Warbler	50		Yellow-breasted Chat *	2	(20)
Blackburnian Warbler	27		warbler species	15	

Tanagers – Finches

Scarlet Tanager	82		Dark-eyed Junco	95	
Northern Cardinal	555		Bobolink	1079	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	264		Red-winged Blackbird	4666	
Indigo Bunting	154		Eastern Meadowlark	185	
Rufous-sided Towhee	111		Common Grackle	3210	
Chipping Sparrow	546		Brown-headed Cowbird	473	
Field Sparrow	142		<u>Orchard Oriole</u>	2	(6)
Vesper Sparrow	7	(13,26)	Northern Oriole	582	
Savannah Sparrow	158		Purple Finch	80	
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	(20)	House Finch	989	
Henslow's Sparrow *	1	F (17)	Pine Siskin	1	(27)
Song Sparrow	1283		American Goldfinch	1173	
Swamp Sparrow	82		Evening Grosbeak	2	(26)
White-throated Sparrow	12		House Sparrow	1402	
White-crowned Sparrow	55				

Summary Information

Total Species Observed – 195

Hybrids – 0

Total Individual Birds Observed – 69,402

Number of Observers – 242

The count total was lowest since 1986, down 21% from last year, and less than the average decade counts for the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s.

When average comparisons are offered, they are with (1) the ten years from 1982 to 1991, and (2) with the full 55 year record in that order:

Loons – Ducks: 9 Common Loons well below the averages of 22 and 17. 315 Double-crested Cormorants highest ever, previous high 162 last year, before that 68 in 1989 and 1986. 1654 Canada Geese highest ever by 31%. 191 Wood Ducks highest ever, 189 in 1988.

Raptors – Rails: 38 Northern Harriers high since the all time high of 58 in 1950.

Plovers – Terns: 63 Ruddy Turnstones high since 76 in 1973, highest 306 in 1967. 10 Red Knots second highest to 40 in 1969, only reported 8 times. 19 Least Sandpipers low since 17 in 1975; averages 90 and 42. 9 Common Snipe tied for low with 1989 since 8 in 1962; averages 18 and 17. 6 American Woodcock low since 1 in 1957; averages 21 and 18. 6 Bonaparte's Gulls compare with averages 119 and 180. 8 Caspian Terns tie with decade maximum in 1984 but two higher counts: 17 in 1978 and 15 in 1969.

Doves – Swallows: 59 Belted Kingfishers low since 54 in 1961; averages 90 and 73. 13 Red-headed Woodpeckers low since 12 in 1962; averages 29 and 38. 115 Downy Woodpeckers low since 44 in 1962; averages 207 and 149. 37 Hairy Woodpeckers low since 24 in 1962; averages 69 and 58. 183 Northern Flickers low since 155 in 1952; averages 274 and 325. 83 Least Flycatchers low since 54 in 1962; averages 156 and 134. 9 Horned Larks an all-time low; averages 43 and 77.

Jays – Starlings: 96 White-breasted Nuthatches low since 91 in 1979; averages 147 and 97. 8 Brown Creepers ties decade low with 1986, before that low since 6 in 1963; averages 16 and 10. 221 Wood Thrushes low since 190 in 1962; averages 323 and 278. 545 Gray Catbirds near decade low of 543 in 1987, before that low since 427 in 1962; averages 726 and 629.

Vireos – Warblers: The following 14 counts established or tied decade lows for warblers, each is followed by the most recent earlier low, decade and all time averages: 21 Tennessee Warblers, 8 in 1966, 134 and 107. 18 Nashville Warblers, 10 in 1962, 60 and 62. 1 Northern Parula tied 1988, 4 and 8. 1255 Yellow Warblers, 873 in 1980, 1592 and 1301. 146 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 95 in 1980, 194 and 185. 1 Cape May Warbler tied for low with 1962, 25 and 40. 8 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 3rd lowest to 5 in 1949 and none in 1936, 32 and 38. 61 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 8 in 1962, 225 and 237. 50 Black-throated Green Warblers, 23 in 1962, 129 and 135. 27 Blackburnian Warblers, 21 in 1962, 89 and 114. 1 Palm Warbler tied with 1985 and 1982, 5 and 8. 7 Bay-breasted Warblers, 5 in 1977, 54 and 68. 6 Black-and-White Warblers all time low, both 40. 132 Ovenbirds, 125 in 1969, 179 and 148.

Tanagers – Finches: 264 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, low since 221 in 1965; averages 411 and 276. 111 Rufous-sided Towhees, low since the same number in 1956; averages 175 and 226. 546 Chipping Sparrows, low since 432 in 1963; averages 864 and 625. 158 Savannah Sparrows, low since 140 in 1963; averages 199 and 225. 1283 Song Sparrows, low since 1248 in 1980; averages 1641 and 1563. 82 Swamp Sparrows, low since 55 in 1980; averages 111 and 108. 12 White-throated Sparrows, low since 11 in 1955; averages 93 and 126. 95 Dark-eyed Juncos, low since 76 in 1980; averages 147 and 76. 4666 Red-winged Blackbirds, low since 4600 in 1962; averages 6125 and 6066. 185 Eastern Meadowlarks, low since 111 in 1941. 3210 Common Grackles, low 2125 in 1958; averages 4865 and 3889. 473 Brown-headed Cowbirds, low since 254 in 1942; averages 870 and 1083. 582 Northern Orioles, low since 502 in 1980; averages 657 and 667. 1173 American Goldfinches, low since 450 in 1960; averages 2096 and 2036.

Observers: Compilers names are underlined

Section

1. Bill Burch, Don Brasure
2. Richard Byron, Barbara Byron
3. Walter Klabunde, Harriette Klabunde, Thomas Insalaco, Donald C. Roberson
4. Robert Brock, William Watson
5. Dick Christensen, Peggy Christensen, Jocelyn Jones, Morgan Jones, Marion Smith
6. Ed Crohn, Mary Ann Stegmeier, Ed Williams
7. Joseph Thill, Jim Gregory, Robert Andrie
8. Margaret Stewart, Marcia O'Bara, Jane Heyer
9. Karen Renning, Tom Burke, Don Roberson, Linc Nutting
10. Robert Wagner, John Filor
11. Marjorie Harwitz, Bruce Johnson, Charles Halvorsen
12. Tom Harper, Kyle Harper, Ann Bauer, Marian Bee, Dorothy Danner, Ray Franz, Linda Holmes, Donna Wieand, Cy Wolfling
13. Dave Keller, Marie Keller, Tad Gerace, George Mahaney, Jane Mason, Marc Mason, Max Mason, Marge Pixley, Don Thurau
14. Barbara Walker, Lois Abbatt, Barbara Brandes, Kenneth Brandes, Phyllis Hanson, Douglas Happ, Adilaide Hunley, Betsy Kalonaros, Lucille Leonard, Robert Leonard, Evilyn Mouser, Clare Stahl

15. William Bogacki
16. Ronald Lange
17. Wavel Barber, Maxine Barber, Jerry Chapple, Nina Chapple, Virginia Elliott, Audrey Horbett, Barbara Welker
18. Bruce Chilton
19. Allegany County Bird Club - Katherine Palmer, Ron Andrews, Faye Clancy, June Estabrook, Alice Evans, Doug Herdman, Lyle Hotchkiss, Margaret Kaufman, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Lang, Edna Marvin, Helen Morse, Larry Mullen, Jean Perry, Vesta Rise, Mr. & Mrs. Emmette Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Wilson, Larry Wilson, Jean and Richard Wilson
20. Lake Erie Bird Club - Joe Gula, Jr., Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Paul Farver, Jeanine Flory, Joanne Goetz, Greg Harper, Grace Mezzio, Judy Mosher, Terry Mosher, Bob Peterson, Marty Sanden, Audrey Schafer, Doris Welch, Tom Welch
21. Jamestown Audobon Society - Robert Sundell, Eileen Anderson, Dan Cordosi, Julie Heilman, Marty Hendrickson, Dot Pihlblad, Carol Roby, Susan Suckow, Travis Suckow, Carol Wagner, Ranjit Latia, Jessie Nelson, Jean Pigman, Bill Sharp, Sally Whetstein
22. Jamestown Audobon Society - Robert Sundell, Pat Appelbe, Marcia Clark, Dan Cordosi, Ranjit Latia, Linda & Bill O'Brien
23. Jamestown Audubon Society - Robert Sundell, Dan Cordosi, Ranjit Latia, Jeremy Maggio, Steve Maggio, Jean Pigman, Tom Simmons
24. Cattaraugus County Bird Club - Tim Baird
25. Cattaraugus County Bird Club - Tim Baird, Marlis Aaron, Dorothy Baker, Arlene Bordonaro, Lucille Bordonaro, Arlene Church, Stephen W. Eaton, James Van Scoy, Regina Van Scoy
26. Allegany County Bird Club - Doris Burton, Llewellyn & Roberta Bump, Lou Burton, Norma Pizza, Ann & Morris Scott, Jean Young
27. Allegany County Bird Club - Doris Burton, Margaret Barnett, Evelyn Coats, Frances DeGroff, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Bob & Claribel James, Emma & Don King & family, Helen Link, Margaret Nickerson, George Niemiec, Tom Pilinski, Lillian Simons

28. Allegany County Bird Club - Clarence Klingensmith, Erma Larson, Vivian Pitzrick, Mallery & Mary Adams, Ethel & Riley Allen, Russell Allen, Dorothy & Fred Bayless, Warren Bouck, Don & Lorna Brink, Elizabeth Brooks, Myrt Brown, Caroline Browning, Carl & Betty Burdick, Marion Cannon, Evelyn Coats, Carla Coch, Diane Converso, Zoe Coombs, Jim Copenheaver, Fred & Stell Cronauer, Paul Culley, Elsie Cushing, Lawrence Deverell, Phyllis DuBrevel, Ann & Robert Eisenhardt, Walt Franklin, Paul Fuller, Helen Graves, Mildred Hayes, Sandra Hotchkiss, Viola Ide, Betty & Wayne Kellogg, Kathy Kent, Margaret Klingensmith, Viola Ide, Ellen Lamb, Kathy MacDonald, Marjorie Mason, Ken & Marion McClure, Angie Ninos, Mary Ormsby, Beverly Perry, Mary Petersen, Linn Phelan, Raymond Pitzrick, Ona Reynolds, Lynn Rositzke, Maureen & Lauren Soule, Dr. Harvey Spencer, Connor Stephens, Jake Strong, Mrs. Gordon Taggart, Evelyn Thomas, Bea Thompson, Fran & William Thompson, Theodore Vossler, Suzanne Wood

Many thanks to our members, friends, and to the many observers and compilers from the other bird clubs who participated on count day, especially on such a beautiful spring day when other areas may have provided stronger attractions, such as Pelee or Cape May. Special thanks to Gerry Rising for providing the checklists for the count, for providing me with the special spread sheets needed to tally the totals, and for computerizing and printing the final report. All involved can derive satisfaction from knowing that the important array of data accumulated from May counts has been perpetuated for the 55th consecutive year.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan L. Jones, Jr.

President

Kenn Kaufman to Speak in Buffalo

The well-known bird trip leader and author of the new book, *Advanced Birding*, Kenn Kaufmann will present a program at the Buffalo Museum of Science on Wednesday, November 20, at 7:30 pm in the Museum Auditorium. His talk is entitled "Owl in a Day's Work", a search for 11 owl species in a single day. This program is being co-sponsored by the William C. Vaughan Memorial Fund, the Buffalo Audubon Society and the Buffalo Ornithological Society. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Birding groups will be contacted to publicize this important event.

Tifft Nature Preserve May 5, 1991

May 5, 1991 was cold (35°F) and clear at 7:00 am when 27 participants left the Tifft Nature Preserve parking lot, but the temperature was to climb to 65°F before the half day trip was finished.

Between the parking lot the visitors' center we had twenty species including a Spotted Sandpiper, one of three Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Tern, Green-backed Heron, Great Blue Heron (pointed out by Ron Lange), numerous Tree Swallows, Northern Rough-wing Swallow and Barn Swallow. The beast bird here was an Osprey, found by Bob Brock, which put on spectacular show diving for fish at Lake Kirsty.

At the Service Road Bridge, Alec Humann found a female Purple Finch and before the group got to Mosquito Junction Boardwalk a Yellow Warbler was added for our 25th species.

Along Mosquito Junction Boardwalk we enjoyed observing Belted Kingfisher, Pied-billed Grebe, American Wigeon, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Flicker, Downy Woodpecker and, for many observers, their first Gray Catbird of the year. Near the end of Mosquito Junction Boardwalk Marcia O'Bara pointed out the first non-Tifft resident warbler, a Black-throated Green Warbler. This bird was soon joined by an arrival date Red-eyed Vireo, one of two Black-and-White Warblers, a Warbling Vireo, a Palm Warbler, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, a handsome male American Redstart, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Nashville Warbler.

Along the Service Road, we observed Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, about 30 White-throated Sparrows, a Field Sparrow and a White-crowned Sparrow. At the intersection of the Service Road and Warbler Walk Alec Humann had staked out the best bird of the day - a juvenile White-eyed Vireo!

Except for an excellent look at a Common Moorhen, the walk down Warbler Walk was uneventful, however, on Old Tifft Street Dick Collins found a Common Yellow-throat and two male Black-throated Blue Warblers. It was along Old Tifft Street that we heard Great Crested Flycatcher, Carolina Wren and White-eyed Vireo(s?) on both sides of the street (but not at the same time).

On Rabbit Run Kathy Kale found a brilliant male Scarlet Tanager in a bush next to the path only 7 feet off the ground. This nearly motionless bird was singing weakly and allowed us to approach closely without flying away.

At Lisa Pond two Gadwall and two Red-tailed Hawks were observed, while Alice McKale and Don Roberson found a Purple Martin. At Beth Pond Tom Insalaco pointed out the first of a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks.

The trip ended at Times Beach where North-east winds were apparently too weak to uncover the mudflats so the only shore birds we observed were Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper. It was here our 83rd species was observed, a pair of Mourning Doves.

This year's total of 83 species compares favorably with trips to Tifft Nature Preserve of previous years. 73 species were observed May 6, 1990, 70 species were observed May 7, 1989, 75 species on May 8, 1988 and 85 species on May 11, 1987. This gives a five year average of 77 species.

The leader is indebted to the many participants for their assistance in locating many species.

Bill Watson

Williamsville Glen
May 12, 1991

Twenty members and friends of the Buffalo Ornithological Society ventured into the Williamsville on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12th. The weather was excellent for birding: clear sky, light wind, temperatures near 70°. The rich profusion of leaves and fruit tree blossoms enhanced the beauty of the day, but at the same time made observation more difficult.

In just 2 1/2 hours 67 species were identified including 18 warblers and 4 vireos. Among these were several Philadelphia Vireos, Northern Parulas and Cape May Warblers; however, as is always the case at this time of year, what made the day was observing once again (and for some the first time) the spectacular colors of the many common as well as uncommon warblers.

Four additional warbler species, Golden-winged Warbler, Palm Warbler, Northern Waterthrush and Canada Warbler, were observed in the glen during the day, but our party missed them.

G. Rising

BOS MEETINGS

Nov. 12: Kenn Kaufman will speak, his program: "Owl in a Day's Work".

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FIELD TRIPS

July 21: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie. Meet at 7:00 am at Vermont & Busti or at 7:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).

Aug. 11: Sunday. Mystery Trip. Go where the birds are. Call Bill Burch (773-3690) a day or two beforehand for details as to when and where to meet.

Aug. 25: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie. Meet at 7:00 am at Vermont & Busti or at 7:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783)

Sept. 3: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 7:30 am in the Tifft parking lot. This is a half-day trip. Leader: Bill Watson (695-2820)

- Sept. 15: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for fall migrants. Meet at 8:00 am at Amherst Book World store, 1/10 mi. east of Main and Transit. Leader: Mike Galas (639-4892).
- Sept. 29: Sunday. Bird Island Pier. Meet at 9:00 am at Broderick Park (on the river at the foot of Ferry Street) for a walk along the 1.3 mi. long pier. Leader: TBA.

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

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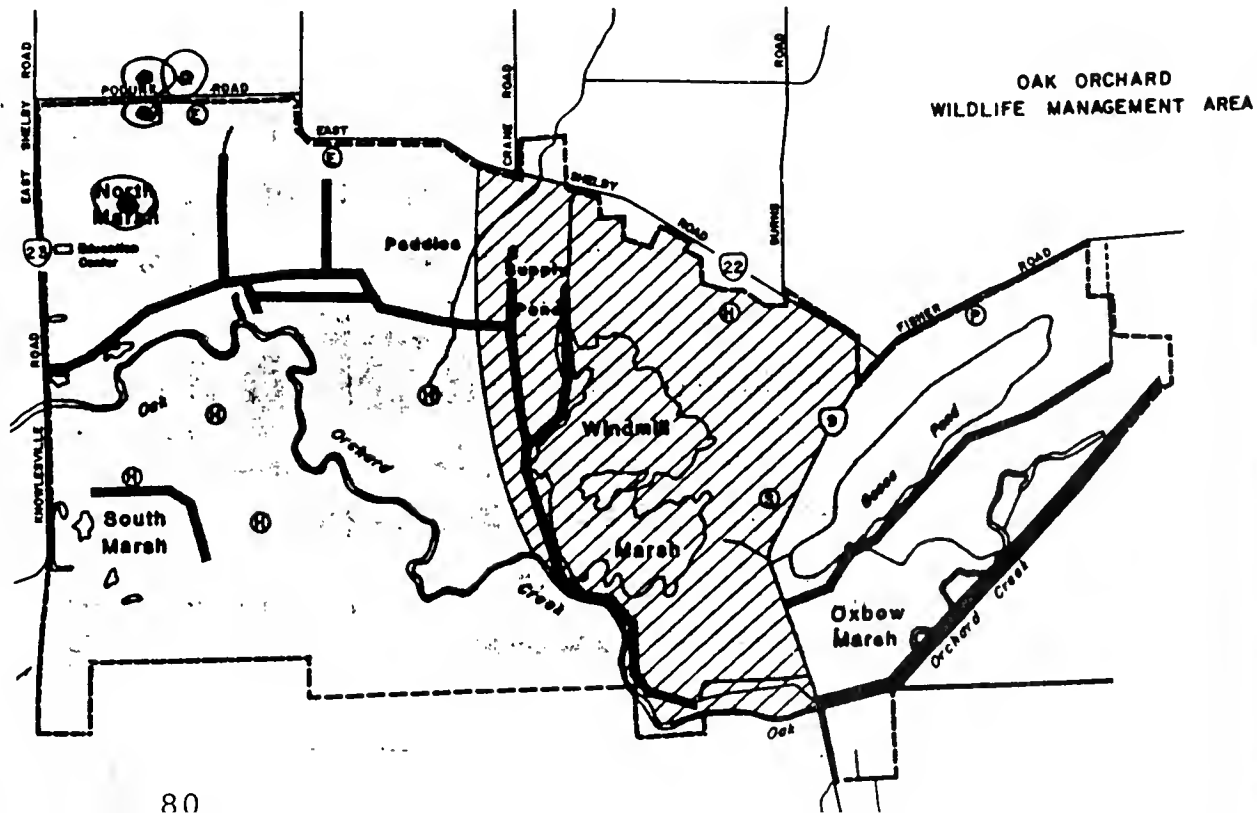
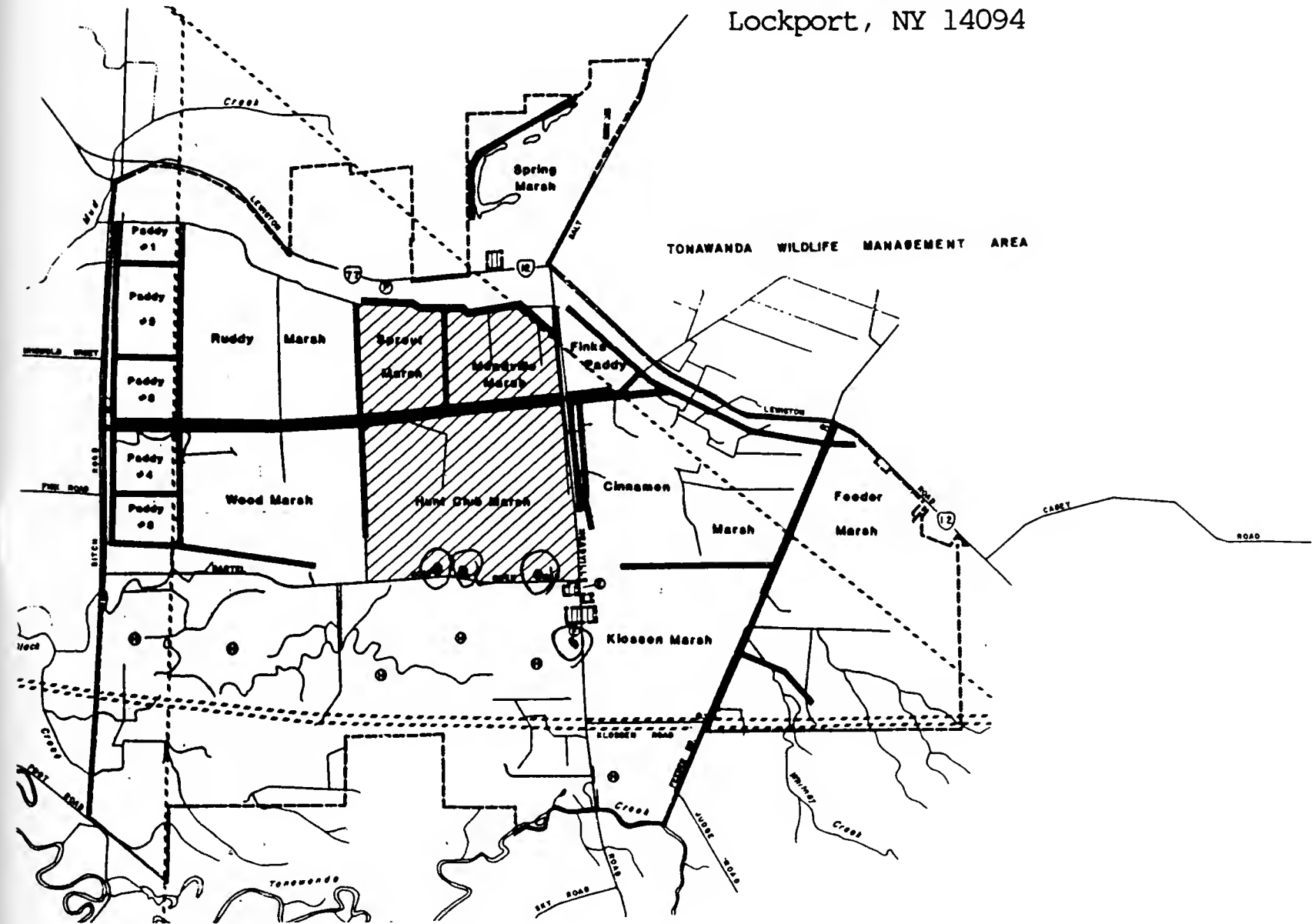
Charles D. Halvorsen
212 Main Street
West Seneca, NY 14224

PLANTINGS FOR BIRDS

OAK ORCHARD/TONAWANDA MANAGEMENT AREAS

Responding to the initiative and efforts of Pat Feldman at the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area, the B.O.S. has funded the purchase of seed for several plantings designed to feed and attract birds. Mixes of sunflower, sorghum and millet were planted by Pat this spring, and he has provided the following maps showing the locations of eight (8) plantings (indicated by a dot enclosed in a circle-- ①). Anyone visiting these areas in late summer or fall might check for avian activity, and any reports of sightings will be appreciated by Pat or myself. We shall also be pleased to receive comments as to whether to modify or expand such program next year.

--Morgan L. Jones, Jr. 433-5687 (h)
39 Grasmere Road 433-5907 (w)
Lockport, NY 14094



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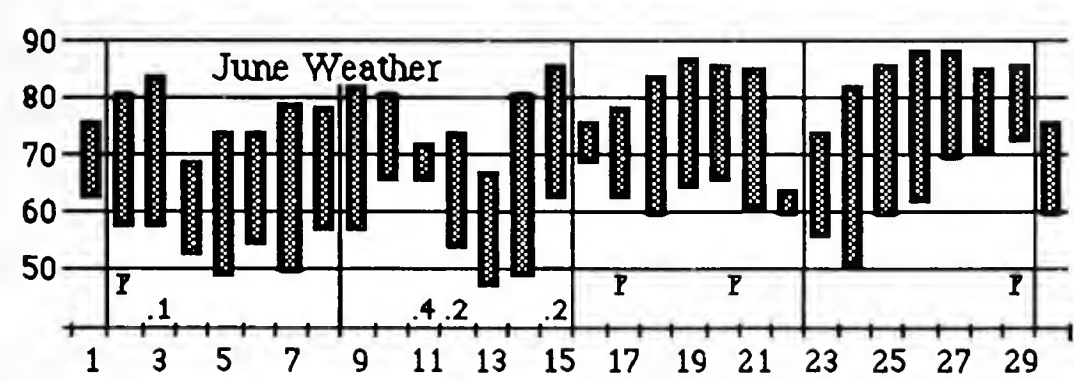
Number 7

THE MONTH: June 1991

One part of our long term weather pattern was finally broken. Instead of being warm and wet as have the past months, June was warm and dry. Hot and arid may better describe the conditions.

Temperature averaged 69.1° F, over 3° above normal, to make this the fourth warmest June on record and the ninth consecutive month with above average temperature. Notice that it warmed to over 80° on 16 days! As one result Lake Erie temperature rose to 70° by month end.

Total precipitation was under 0.9 inches, a deficit from normal of over 2 inches, making this the eighth driest June on record. On only 4 days was there measurable (>0.01 inch) rainfall. Pitzrick reports even less rainfall in the Southern Tier.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 1st was a Saturday, the 2nd a Sunday. Data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

She also notes that raccoons are everywhere. (My wife would certainly agree as they are a continuing nuisance in our garden.) The number of road kills also confirms this judgement. Not only does the explosion of the population of these animals constitute a problem for nesting birds, but it poses a problem for birders as well. Jim Rice, senior ranger of Allegany State Park, told me that about 7% of the raccoons trapped in that area have been found to be rabid.

In some of the comments that follow, comparisons are drawn between this year's records and those of the previous five years, 1986-1990. I designate this period as "the recent past" or "recent years."

Watson continues to monitor the Great Blue Heron activity on Motor Island, noting on different days varying numbers of young birds, as many as 11, on the nests. My own limited observations suggest good

Sun worshipers — a group to which I do not belong — must have loved this month as there was 73% of possible sun. Clearly this was midsummer weather, probably good for many birds but not for many bird watchers.

One plus that you would expect from such weather would be a reduction in the usual June crop of biters, but Pitzrick reports, "Deer flies are ferocious and plentiful."

numbers of Green-backed Herons, but few night herons or bitterns of either species. The count of 620 Mallards at Iroquois on the 2nd gives further evidence of the increase of this aggressive species that is drowning the gene pool of the formerly more common Black Duck.

The continuing success of the Ospreys at Allegany Reservoir where this year 3 nests have been observed indicates the value of constructing nest platforms for these birds. Apparently the Bald Eagles at Iroquois successfully raised 1 young this year.

For those who, like me, hate to see signs of the summer waning, the appearance of the first returning shorebirds — Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher — on the 29th represents bad news; except for the dowitcher, however, these do not represent extra-Date Guide records. Note in this regard that the final spring shorebird migrant, a Black-bellied Plover, was recorded on the 8th. Small numbers of Black Terns were reported, but none this month from Buckhorn Island. I hope that that doesn't mean that the small colony at the base of the power line is no longer there.

Good news/bad news: the high count of Whip-poor-wills, 4, is greater than the high count of Common (?) Nighthawks. Surely the terrible reduction of the numbers of this city goatsucker, whose place atop the insect food chain makes it the repository of pest control chemicals, strengthens the case against our too heavy tree and lawn pesticide spraying campaigns.

Acadian Flycatcher reports represent a high for recent years as this retiring bird appears to seek out additional local nesting sites. Brooks found a Raven family with 2 young in Ward Township providing direct nesting evidence for this wary corvid for the second year in a row in the Southern Tier. Over recent years Golden-crowned Kinglet records have been increasing steadily.

No Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrids this month: in fact no Blue-wings were reported! Among other less common species, the Wainfleet Yellow-breasted Chat was found in the same location as last year, and Prairie Warbler reports compared favorably with recent years. They were found in 4 Southern Tier townships. No Louisiana Waterthrushes or Prothonotary Warblers were reported.

Easily the best bird of the month is Brooks' Clay-colored Sparrow, found from the 8th to the 19th in Andover. This is the 2nd time in 4 years that this species has been reported in the same area. Brooks added 2 Red Crossbills in Ward on the 6th and a Pine Siskin in Allegany State Park on the 1st to her report. Neither species was much in evidence this past winter, and the crossbills were the first seen this year.

In the category of "Eat Your Heart Out," I have just received the May report for the Rochester region. Included are Eared Grebe, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Mississippi Kite, Swainson's Hawk, Black-backed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Lawrence's, Orange-crowned, and Connecticut Warblers, Blue Grosbeak, and Dickcissel.

Comments on the breeding bird census will be included with the August Month as a few routes have not yet been reported and compiled. — G. Rising

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	22	1	Sadagee	Watson
D.-crest. Cormorant	2	5	Cold Spring Twp	Sundell
American Bittern	8	1	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
"	22	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	16	2	Tifft NP	Watson
Mallard	2	620	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
Northern Shoveler	8	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al
Gadwall	15	3	Niagara Falls	Watson
American Wigeon	15	1	LaSalle Pk. Bflo.	Watson
"	16, 24	2, 1	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	27	18	Beaver Is. SP	Watson
Hooded Merganser	1	1	New Hudson Twp	Wagner
"	19	1 YO	Ward Twp	Brooks
"	26	4	Zoar Valley	Holmes (EABC)
Common Merganser	24	8	Niagara Falls	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	16	1	Westfield Twp	Sundell
Osprey	1, 18	2 pr @ nest	Allegany Resvior.	Watson, Andrie et al
"	24	3 pr @ nest	"	Sundell
Bald Eagle	8	1 imm.	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al
Northern Harrier	1-26	2, 1	Andover, Alfred	Brooks
"	18	1	Pomfret Twp	Andrie et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	1	2	Cold Spring Twp	Watson, D'Anna
"	22	1	Stockton Twp	D'Anna et al
Red-should. Hawk	1-30	10 reports	Tona. Ind. Res. & S. of Buffalo	
Bl.-bell. Plover	2, 8L	17, 1	Iroquois NWR	Potter, D'Anna
Lesser Yellowlegs	29F	2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
Upland Sandpiper	2	2	Hartland Twp	D'Anna, Potter
"	7	4	Dayton Twp	Wagner
"	15, 22	1, 6	Clarence Twp	Watson et al
Least Sandpiper	29F	2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
Short-b. Dowitcher	29F	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
Bonaparte's Gull	24	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Caspian Tern	15	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna (BOS)
"	30	1	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
Black Tern	8	10	Iroq. NWR & vicin.	Watson
"	29	7	LaSalle Pk. Bflo.	Watson et al
Black-b. Cuckoo	1-29	7 reports	Wainfleet, Ont & So. Tier	
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	2	1	Amity Twp	Pitzrick
"	7	1	Tuscarora Ind. Res.	Roberson, Cooper
"	2, 5	1, 1	Dayton Twp	Brasure
"	15	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	D'Anna (BOS)
Common Nighthawk	9, 11, 20	3, 1, 1	Buffalo	Watson, Hess
"	10, 26	1, 1	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
Whip-poor-will	5, 18	4	Wainfleet, Ont	Galas, D'Anna et al
Red-bellied Wdpr.	1	1	S. Valley Twp	D'Anna, Watson
"	2-24	1	Wales (f)	O. Rosche
"	23	1	Dayton Twp	Brasure
* Yellow-b. Flycatcher	1L	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Galas
Acadian Flycatcher	1, 22	1, 2 PDBA's	Pomfret Twp	D'Anna et al
"	2, 30	2, 1 PDBA's	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Andrie
"	15	2 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna (BOS)
"	18	2 PDBA	Pomfret Twp	Andrie, Roberson et al
"	23	2 ad+N2Y	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Andrie

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Cliff Swallow	9	25	Andover Twp	Brooks
"	14	2	Little Valley Twp	Wagner
"	18	11	Allegany SP	Roberson et al
"	30	10	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
Common Raven	26	2+2yo	Ward Twp	Brooks
Tufted Titmouse	1-30	7 reports	E & S of Buffalo	
Red-br. Nuthatch	1-29	6 reports	S of Buffalo	
Brown Creeper	1	1	New Hudson Twp	Wagner
"	6	1	W. Almond Twp	Wagner
"	6, 13	2, 3	Ward Twp	Brooks
"	18	1	Allegany SP	Roberson et al
Winter Wren	9	3	Gerry Twp	Sundell
"	22	1	Pomfret Twp	D'Anna et al
"	30	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Andrie
Golden-cr. Kinglet	6, 13, 27	4, 8, 6 PDBA	Ward Twp	Brooks
"	8	1 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	9	2+y PDBA	Gerry Twp	Sundell
"	9, 30	1, 1 PDBA	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	18	1 PDBA	Allegany SP	Andrie, Roberson et al
"	21	1 PDBA	Almond Twp	Brooks
"	21, 26	1, 2 PDBA	Almond Twp	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	1	1	Allegany SP	D'Anna, Watson
"	12	1	Amity Twp	Pitzrick
"	16	NY	Amity Twp	Pitzrick et al
Swainson's Thrush	3L	2	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
"	18	2	Allegany SP	Roberson et al
Yellow-thr. Vireo	23	1	Stockton Twp	Mosher
Golden-w. Warbler	7	4	Tuscarora Ind. Res.	Roberson, Cooper
Nashville Warbler	2	1	Andover Twp	Brooks
"	5	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	6	2	Ward Twp	Pitzrick
"	18	1	Scio	Pitzrick
Northern Parula	2	1	Allegany SP	Sundell et al
"	18	1	Allegany SP	Andrie et al
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	1	1	New Hudson Twp	Wagner
"	3, 23	1, 1	Dayton Twp	Brasure
"	22	1	Pomfret Twp	D'Anna, Potter
"	29, 30	1	Franklinville Twp	D'Anna et al
Yellow-r. Warbler	1-30	1-6	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	1-30	1-8	Ward Twp	Brooks
	Max. counts	4 other reports	Catt. & Allegany Cos.	
Pine Warbler	29	1	Franklinville Twp	D'Anna, Potter
Prairie Warbler	1	1	Carroll Twp	Watson, D'Anna
"	1, 8, 19, 28	1, 1, 1, 1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	1-30	1-3	Amity Twp	Pitzrick
"	18	1	Carroll Twp	Andrie et al
"	18	1	Andover Twp	Brooks
Blackpoll Warbler	2L	1	Hartland Twp	Potter, D'Anna
Cerulean Warbler	1	1	Allegany SP	D'Anna, Watson
Bl.-&-w. Warbler	14	1	Little Valley Twp	Wagner
"	18	1	Allegany SP	Roberson et al
"	22, 23	3, 4	Dayton Twp	Brasure
Norther Waterthrush	29	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Yellow-br. Chat	5, 18, 29	1	Wainfleet Twp	Galas, D'Anna, Watson
*Clay-col. Sparrow	8, 18, 19	1, 2, 1	Andover Twp	Brooks
Vesper Sparrow	2	1, 1	Wilson, Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	8-30	2	Andover Twp	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	1-28	9 reports	throughout WNY	
Henslow's Sparrow	1	1	Pomfret Twp	D'Anna, Potter
"	1, 10, 19	1, 1, 1	Alfred Twp	Brooks et al
White-thr. Sparrow	4	2	W. Almond Twp	Wagner
"	4	2	Birdsall Twp	Wagner
"	22	1	Holland Twp	D'Anna, Potter
"	26	2	W. Almond Twp	Brooks
*Red Crossbill	6	2	Ward Twp	Brooks
Pine Siskin	1	1	Allegany Twp	Watson, D'Anna

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	246
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue . . . (incl. Upland Sandpiper from May)	4
Total for year.	250

Whip-Poor-Will Trip June 5, 1991

The 2nd annual Whip-poor-will trip was again successful. Three to four birds sang for almost an hour from a very close distance. Several birders were lucky enough to glimpse this night time caller. The singing whip-poor-wills were the culmination of a very nice night.

Backtracking, our first stop was Port Colbourn. Here we enjoyed a tasty Chinese dinner in the company of 23 birders. Everyone agreed that Bill Burch had again planned a nice trip. Thanks Bill.

Leaving the Lotus Garden Restaurant, we stopped on Minor Road in search of Grasshopper Sparrows. Instead we found only Song and Savannahs. But we were treated to nice views of a nesting pair of mockingbirds.

Continuing on to Wilson Road several birders were able to hear the Yellow-breasted Chat before the sun set. At sun set the empids, both Willow and Alder Flycatchers started calling as a prelude to the Whip-poor-wills. All in all it was a fine trip in which we totaled 42 species.

Mike Galas, Leader

Kenn Kaufman to Speak in Buffalo

The well-known bird trip leader and author of the new book, Advanced Birding, Kenn Kaufmann will present a program at the Buffalo Museum of Science on Wednesday, November 20, at 7:30 pm in the Museum Auditorium. His talk is entitled "Owl in a Day's Work", a search for 11 owl species in a single day. This program is being co-sponsored by the William C. Vaughan Memorial Fund, the Buffalo Audubon Society and the Buffalo Ornithological Society. All interested persons are invited to attend.

BOS MEETINGS

Sept. 11: Members' Slide Night. All members are invited to share slides of their summer (or other recent) birding adventures. This is always an enjoyable evening. Plan to attend even if you don't have any slides to share.

Nov. 20: Kenn Kaufman will speak, his program: "Owl in a Day's Work". This is not a regular BOS meeting night, however, this special event is being co-sponsored by BOS.

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8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

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Sept. 1: Sunday. [Note Correct Date] Tifft Nature Preserve for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 7:30 am in the Tifft parking lot. This is a half-day trip. Leader: Bill Watson (695-2820)

Sept. 15: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for fall migrants. Meet at 8:00 am at Amherst Book World store, 1/10 mi. east of Main and Transit. Leader: Mike Galas (639-4892).

Sept. 20-22: Meeting of Federation of NYS Bird Club in Syracuse, NY.

Sept. 27-29: Cape May Weekend of the New Jersey Audubon Society. Register by September 5 for the \$221 package or bird on your own this or a nearby date.

Sept. 29: Sunday. Bird Island Pier. Meet at 9:00 am at Broderick Park (on the river at the foot of Ferry Street) for a walk along the 1.3 mi. long pier. Leader: TBA. This is a half-day trip.

Oct. 6: Sunday. Hamilton, Ont. for a trip to Dundas Marsh and Cootes Paradise Lagoon. Meet at 7:00 am at Howard Johnson's parking lot in Niagara Falls, NY where I-90 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd., Hwy 62. Leader: Bruce Clinton (833-9242).

Oct. 13: Sunday. BOS October Bird Count. Plan to take part.

Oct. 20: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 8:00 am at Amherst Book World store, 1/10 mi. east of Main and Transit. Leader: TBA

Oct. 26: SATURDAY (not Sunday). Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara & Orleans Counties. Meet in Wrights' Corners (north of Lockport) on Hwy 78 at the Tops market at 8:00 am. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).

- Oct. 27: Daylight Saving Time ends, set clocks back one hour.
- Nov. 3: Sunday. Niagara River Loop. Meet at 8:00 am at Vermont & Busti or at 8:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge.
- Nov. 17: Sunday. Niagara River for Gulls and waterfowl. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 9:30 am at Old Fort Niagara in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS & Bob Brock (876-5862).
- Dec. 1: Sunday. Buffalo waterfront and Niagara River. Meet at 8:00 am at the Vermont & Busti entrance to the Peace Bridge.
- Dec. 15: Sunday. BOS Christmas bird count.
- Dec. 22: Sunday. Niagara Falls, Ontario-NY Christmas bird count. Compilers: Kayo Roy (Ont) & Willie D'Anna (NY).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

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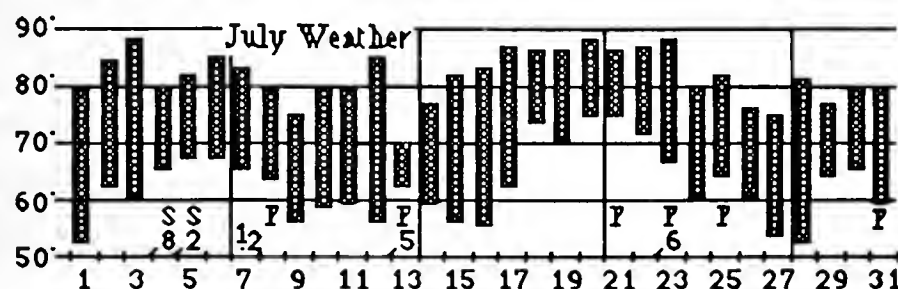
Number 8

THE MONTH: July 1991

July was what the National Weather Service Forecast Office described as "another ideal summer month in Western New York." It is difficult for anyone except farmers to argue with that description.

Temperature averaged 71.9° F, 1.2° above normal, making this the ninth consecutive month with above average temperature. It warmed to over 80° on 17 days, not unusual for July but just one more day than the preceding hotter than usual month of June. Notice on the chart the sultry 5 day period from July 18th to the 22nd when the temperature lows were 70° or more. Lake Erie temperature rose to 75° by month end, near the seasonal average. Sunshine for the month was 69% of that possible, about average.

Total precipitation at the Buffalo Airport was 3.3 inches, .4 inch above normal, but rainfall varied a great deal across the region. Heavy thunderstorms on the 4th and 7th broke an 18 day rainless period, the longest recorded by the local weather bureau since 1978. Significant rainfall was widely spaced after that.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, Ss stationary fronts, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 6th was a Saturday, the 7th a Sunday. Data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

dry weather on birds of all types, but especially marshland species. Lower water levels and parched fields were evident across the region by the end of the month.

On the positive side Pitzrick reports excellent Southern Tier food crops: "Apple trees are loaded, good box elder seed, hawthorn and dogwood fruits are plentiful, cone crop looks good."

In the following reports comparisons are drawn with the previous 5 years, 1986-1990. These are designated as "recent years."

Even the winds were mild. Only on the 7th and 8th were there strong gusts, those on the 8th reaching 60 mph. These brought down a few trees in scattered areas and produced power outages in Chautauqua County. On only 3 other days did the peak gusts reach 30 mph.

What were the effects of this pleasant weather on local bird breeding? Certainly the mild weather and the continuing absence of protracted storms benefitted woodland species. More in question is the effect of the

Common Loons, seen through the month this year, were reported in only 2 recent years. Cormorant numbers are building, the maximum count of 112 well outstripping last year's max of 24 and the next best 20 in 1987.

Now in addition to the Motor Island colony, we have 24 young Great Blue Herons on 33 nests in Clarence. Readers should not take this to imply that these are the only heron colonies in the region; they are simply the only ones carefully censused. The single report of 2 Great Egrets on the 26th is low for recent years. Previous maximums were 4, 9, 16, 8, and 11.

As usual a few of the less common dabbling ducks were to be found: this year Green-winged Teal and Northern Pintail. The first was unrecorded 2 of 5 years, the second 3 of 5. Possibly the same Oldsquaw was reported twice as was a Common Goldeneye. The first were seen in 1 of 5 years, the second 3 of 5. These welcome reports go against the downward spiral of duck numbers reported by the National Wildlife Federation. In particular NWF reports pintails down "62% below their long-term average." This comes at a time when the Federal government proposes to remove protection for about 10% of national wetlands.

The shorebird record is, as always, mixed. Consider here only arrival dates for the fall migration:

Species	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986
Black-bellied Plover	6	31	29			
Semipalmated Plover	10	14	23	11	17	6
Piping Plover				23		
American Avocet				11		
Greater Yellowlegs	6	10	8	June 23		19
Lesser Yellowlegs		2		June 23		June 29
Solitary Sandpiper	9	7	4	8		6
Whimbrel	6	23			June 31	
Ruddy Turnstone	13	31	8	21	June 26	
Red Knot			4			
Sanderling	21	14	29	21	17	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	13	13	4	11	17	11
Western Sandpiper	21					
Least Sandpiper	June 29	2	June 30	June 26		June 29
Pectoral Sandpiper	9	19	8	16	14	29
Dunlin	13					
Curlew Sandpiper		30				
Stilt Sandpiper	6	15	8	16	17	20
Ruff			8			
Short-billed Dowitcher		7	1	June 26		12
Wilson's Phalarope	25	8	4			

No Little Gulls were reported this year, seen last year and the year before only. The maximum count of 250 Bonaparte's Gulls is down from 1200 last year. Similarly the maximum Black Tern count of 36 is less than last year's 200.

Just 2 reports of single Common (increasingly a misnomer) Nighthawks this month. Joe Thill has written about careful observations of this species that he and others have accumulated in the Town of Tonawanda. He has witnessed a drop in the numbers of nighthawks there from 32 as recently as 1985 to 2 this year. And he ties this drop to the incursion of Common Crows into the area. This species has moved in as a permanent city resident and is doing violence to breeding passerines such as robins and cardinals, but of more immediate importance is their destruction of nighthawk nests. Joe reports two incidents of crows harrassing nighthawks from their scrapes and subsequently flying off with newly hatched young in their beaks. In neither case did the nighthawks return to those locations to nest in subsequent years. Joe adds, "It appears that every street in the Village of Kenmore has a resident pair" of crows.

Pitzrick reports 33 pairs of Eastern Bluebirds along the Amity Lake Bluebird Trail, down from 39 last year.

Southern Tier birders — Brooks, Budniewski, Flory, Holmes, Pitzrick, Rosche, and Sundell — together report 16 species of warblers this month. These include Nashville, Prairie, Canada, Hooded, and

Mourning Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrush. Add to these the Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers at Iroquois and the Yellow-breasted Chat at Wainfleet and the list is a good one for the region; however, I do note the absence from any lists of Black-throated Green Warbler.

There are only a few records of Grasshopper Sparrows and none of Henslow's Sparrow this month. I found none in the areas of Clarence where they were resident until this year. The 4 Lincoln's Sparrows at Wainfleet represents the first July record in recent years. — G. Rising

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	2,30	1,1	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	22	1	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
D.-crest. Cormorant	2,18,30	98-112	Niagara Falls	Watson et al
"	7	2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
"	28	56	Rock Pt. PP	D'Anna
American Bittern	7	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
Least Bittern	10	3	Tifft NP	Watson
Great Blue Heron	3	24 yn	Clarence Twp	Watson, McNaughton
Great Egret	26	2	Tifft NP	Watson
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	26	3	Tifft NP	Watson
<u>Mute Swan</u>	10-26	1	LaSalle Pk., Bflo.	Watson
Green-winged Teal	12	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Northern Pintail	26	5	Tonawanda WMA	Roberson
Gadwall	2,18	2,2	Niagara Falls	Watson
American Wigeon	1	2	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson
"	2	4	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	10	6	Motor Island	Watson
Oldsquaw	16	1	Rock Pt. PP	Watson
"	215	1	Camelot Bch., Ont	Rew et al
Common Goldeneye	6,7	1	Crescent Bch., Ont	Humann
Common Merganser	2,18	1,3	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	27	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	Watson et al
Red-br. Merganser	4,6	2,3	Crescent Bch., Ont	Humann
"	26	2	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Watson
"	26	1	Westfield Twp	Sundell
"	29	1	Lake Erie SP	Flory
Sharp-sh. Hawk	2-28	6 reports	through the region	
Red-should. Hawk	5-25	4 reports	south of Buffalo	
Black-bell. Plover	6F	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont	Andrie et al
Semipalmated Plover	10F	2	Iroquois NWR	Holmes (EABC)
"	14	4	Crescent Bch., Ont	Humann
Greater Yellowlegs	6F	3	Bertie Twp. Ont	Watson, D'Anna

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Greater Yellowlegs	10	1	Iroquois NWR	Holmes (EABC)
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	2	Crescent Bch., Ont	Humann
"	6	45	Ft. Erie-Rock Pt.	Watson, D'Anna
"	12, 31	25, 60	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	24	38	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
Solitary Sandpiper	9F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	10	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	12	6	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Upland Sandpiper	10	1	Clarence Twp	Holmes (EABC)
"	30	1	Fredonia	Mosher
Whimbrel	6F	1	Rock Pt. PP	Watson, D'Anna
Ruddy Turnstone	13F	1	Bertie Twp	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	16	1	"	Watson
"	26	1	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
Sanderling	21F	8	Rock Pt. PP	D'Anna (BOS)
"	29	1	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
Semipalm. Sandpiper	13F	5, 12	Erie Bch., Rock Pt.	D'Anna et al
"	21	100	Rock Pt. PP	D'Anna (BOS)
"	31	80	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
* Western Sandpiper	21F	1	Rock Pt. PP	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
Least Sandpiper	4, 6	11, 19	Crescent Bch., Ont	Humann
"	6, 16	26, 76	Ft Erie-Rock Pt.	Watson, D'Anna
"	12	8	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Pectoral Sandpiper	9F	1	Niagara Twp, Ont	D'Anna
"	26	25	Oak Orchard WMA	Roberson
Dunlin	13F	1	Erie Bch., Ont	D'Anna
"	14	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	O'Bara
* Stilt Sandpiper	6F, 16, 26	2, 2, 1	Rock Pt. PP	D'Anna, Watson et al
"	7, 14	2, 1	Crescent Bch., Ont	Humann
"	26	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Roberson
Short-b. Dowitcher	6, 16	26, 66	Ft Erie-Rock Pt.	Watson, D'Anna
"	26	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Roberson
Wilson's Phalarope	25F	1	Smithville, Ont	Andrie et al
Bonaparte's Gull	6, 16	11, 25	Ft Erie-Rock Pt	Watson, D'Anna
"	24	250	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
Great Bl. -b Gull	18	21	Niagara Falls	Watson
Caspian Tern	10	1	Tonawanda WMA	Holmes (EABC)
"	29	1	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
"	31	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
	6-26	5 reports	Lake Erie	
Black Tern	10	12	Tonawanda WMA	Holmes (EABC)
"	13F, 28	11, 36	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	D'Anna et al
Black-b. Cuckoo	1, 13	1, 1	Wales	O. Rosche
"	6	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	31	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	21	1	Port Colborne, Ont	Watson (BOS)
Common Nighthawk	19, 25	1, 1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	22	1	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
"	2-31	3 reports	east & west of Bflo.	
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	1, 16	1	Wales (f)	O. Rosche
"	4, 7, 9	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Acadian Flycatcher	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Cliff Swallow	4	12-15+5 nests	Grand Island	Galas, Watson et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Tufted Titmouse	4	2ad&2yg	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	9, 19	1	Sheldon Twp.	O. Rosche
Brown Creeper	1	1	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson
Carolina Wren	26	2	Westfield Twp.	Sundell
"	2-28	9 reports	throughout region	
Golden-cr. Kinglet	2, 12, 31	10-14 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	8, 16	1, 1	Andover Twp.	Brooks
Bl. -gr. Gnatcatcher	1	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Nashville Warbler	1	1	Amity Twp.	Pitzrick
Bl. -thr. Blue Warbler	6	1	Ward Twp.	Pitzrick, Broderick
Yellow-r. Warbler	8, 9, 17	1, 1, 1	Andover Twp.	Brooks
"	11	2	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	23	1	Franklinville	Holmes
Bl. -&w. Warbler	21	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	26F	1	Westfield Twp.	Sundell
Prothonotary Warbler	10	1	Iroquois NWR	Holmes (EABC)
Northern Waterthrush	2	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Watson
"	12	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Yellow-br. Chat	6	1	Wainfleet Twp, Ont.	Andrie et al
Vesper Sparrow	1-21	1	Andover Twp.	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	5, 16	1, 1	Andover Twp.	Brooks
"	6	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	6	1	Ward Twp.	Pitzrick, Broderick
Lincoln's Sparrow	10	4	Wainfleet Twp, Ont.	Andrie et al
White-thr. Sparrow	19	1 PDBA	Alfred Twp.	Brooks

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	250
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	3
Total for year.	253

Baby Tree Swallow Rescued

Certainly not new in birding experiences, this of mine was new to me -- and rewarding.

So far, raccoons have seldom robbed utility pole-mounted nest boxes on my Amity Lake Bluebird Trail. It may be the creosote treated poles or the vibration which deters them.

However, on 7 June I found claw marks on both pole and box 87. Nest material had been pulled out, but left in the nest were one egg and one tiny, just hatched Tree Swallow.

Wrapping the little bird in feathers and a large cloth, after holding it a few minutes to determine that it was still alive and to warm it a bit, I quickly went through my nest record cards, looking for another nest with just hatched young.

Two other boxes had young about a week old. Neither would do. In another box, number 120, I found four nestlings slightly older than this one and carefully placed the tiny, naked -- and cold -- chick on top and in the center of the four warm nestlings.

What satisfaction it was on the 12th and 20th of June to find five vigorous youngsters in this nest. On the latter date they were all well feathered, nearly ready to leave the nest.

The final visit a few days later showed the nest "empty, intact."

Vivian M. Pitzrick
Amity Lake, Belmont, NY 18413

A Woodcock Story

July 31 was a red letter day. For the second time in our 41 years here we enjoyed the visit of a woodcock. He found the "damp" area in our back lawn to be a good feeding area especially as the border to the west of wild flowers and yews made a convenient hide-out.

Our son Phillip who was visiting at the time saw him first at 7:15 a.m. After feeding leisurely for three hours he went into hiding temporarily when I replenished the bird feeders at 10:30 a.m. During the late morning and early afternoon when the sun shone over most of the preferred area the bird spent most, but not all, of the time resting at the border in the shade of the yews. He even came out to feed while we were sitting inconspicuously under the shade of the birch tree about 20 - 25 feet from him. The last we saw of the woodcock for the day was about 8 p.m. when he went into hiding in the yews.

A peculiar habit which I had never noted before - nor read about - was the bobbing of the whole body more than five times before probing for food.

The bird was seen for the next two days.

Walter Klabunde

SUMMARY OF 1991 BEAMER HAWKWATCH

From Robert Dobos, statistician for Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch, we learn that a total of 14,951 hawks were tallied at Beamer between March 1 and May 15. This total was almost identical to the 11 year average (from 1980 - 1990) of 14,971. A total of 548.3 hours of observation were amassed in 70 days. Five days were missed due to rain and fog plus one with no coverage.

New record high counts were made in 1991 for Osprey (46), Northern Harrier (219) and Rough-legged Hawk (145). Also a new one day count for Harriers (28) occurred on April 14.

The 17 Bald Eagles counted this year tied the record of 1989 while the 8 Golden Eagles were two above the 11 year average. Two unidentified eagles were also recorded this season. The Turkey Vulture count of 1785 was the second highest on record.

Amongst falcons, the five Peregrines counted were one below last years record. The eleven Merlins were also one bird shy of the 1987 record. The American Kestrel total of 180 was well above the 11 year average of 118.

Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers (3767) were well below the 11 year average of 4258 and almost half of last years record count. The Northern Goshawk total of 20 birds was also well below the 1980-1990 mean of 32. The Cooper's Hawk tally of 220 was the third highest but down considerably from last years record 311.

As for buteos, the Red-tailed Hawk total of 3023 was only slightly above the average of 2968. The Red-shouldered Hawk count of 761 was below the 11 year mean of 845 and just above half of 1990's record high of 1440. The 2063 Broad-winged Hawks counted were the second lowest since 1978. However, the peak flight of April 25 when 45% of the years total concurred with the record high count of unidentified buteos (1957) presumably most of these UB's were actually Broadwings flying too high for the counter to identify. It would be nice to know how many flew even higher that were not seen at all.

Abbreviations: TV - Turkey Vulture; OS - Osprey; BE - Bald Eagle; NH - Northern Harrier; SS - Sharpshin Hawk; CH - Cooper's Hawk; NG - Northern Goshawk; RS - Red-shouldered Hawk; BW - Broadwing Hawk; RT - Red-tailed Hawk; RL - Rough-legged Hawk; GE - Golden Eagle; AK - American Kestrel; ML - Merlin; PG - Peregrine Falcon.

Walter Klabunde

4923 Creek Road, Lewiston, NY 14092

March, 1991

Date	Hours	TV	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	P6	Unld	Total
01	7.5								10	1		1				12
02	6			1					11							12
03	6							1	9							10
04	0		-	R	A	I	N		-							0
05	8							2	9							11
06	2.5			1					2							3
07	8				1				14							15
08	7				2				144	1					1	148
09	5			3		1			106	2					17	129
10	8					1			71	2		2			6	82
11	8				2			1	36	2						41
12	6.5			2					86						1	89
13	7					3		2	117	1					3	126
14	6		1					1	24	1						27
15	7.3				3			1	15	1						20
16	9	1	1	3		4		9	80	2		2			35	137
17	8		1	2	4	2		72	64	3					63	211
18	0		-	R	A	I	N	-								0
19	3	2			1	1		10	36			6			8	64
20	7.5	2		1	4	2	1	60	167	4		2			1	244
21	7.5			1	3	2		36	82			1	1		2	128
22	7.5	1						2	3							6
23	8.75	11	3	2	24	6	1	93	61		3	26			1	231
24	8	2						4	5			1				12
25	7.5	1			1	1		25	47			2				77
26	8.2	20		9	37	28	1	220	236	8		9	1	2	117	688
27	9	4		5	9	1		22	6			3			2	52
28	8.5			2	1	2		11	16	1		4	1			38
29	8.5	414	3	2	1	11		17	211	6		3			14	682
30	9	182		4	2	17		45	168	2		7			43	470
31	9	120	3	7	126	19		35	136	3					94	543
Total	215.8	760	12	46	220	101	3	669	1972	40	3	69	3	2	408	4308

April, 1991

Date	Hours	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	N6	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	P6	Unld	Total
01	7.75	1		1	1	6	1		4		3						1	18
02	7				4	3	1		1		8							17
03	8	154		2	6	12	7	4	11		113	7		1	1		15	333
04	9	78	2		13	59	15	1	4		80	6	1	7		2	17	285
05	7	123	1			27					2		1					154
06	8	16	1		3	61	4		2		9	1		3			1	101
07	10.3	125	2		13	238					35	1		23			11	448
08	8	16	1		5	220	4		1		17			8			3	275
09	8	33	2	1	2	533	7		1		12			4			2	597
10	7.75					3			5		6						1	15
11	8.5	47	2		1	14	11	5	2	1	88					1	18	190
12	8.3	39	3		9	113	12	2	27	7	171	22		6	1		13	425
13	0		-	R	A	I	N	-										0
14	7.2	22			28	118	4	2	8	8	80	18		19			20	327
15	7	4			1	41					1			1				48
16	9	9			5	22				2	20	7		4	1		6	76
17	7.2	22			2	47			12	158	12	1		1			7	262
18	8.67	42	8		4	96	12	2		200	51	10		5			144	574
19	7.6	31	5		11	233	6		2	139	55	6	2	5			1	496
20	0				-	F	0	6	-									0
21	7	1			2	1					1				2			7
22	0		-	R	A	I	N	-										0
23	11	24	2		16	173	3	1	5	159	37	9		2	1		9	441
24	7.5	4			1	72				27	2			1			2	109
25	9.75	62	2		7	121	7		2	944	22	1	1	4			1957	3130
26	8.75				2	115	1			7	3			2			3	133
27	10.3	10	2	1	5	217	1			14	3	1			2		6	262
28	9	4	2			63	2			1	16			1			2	91
29	7.1	1			3	189	4		1	104	15			2			1	320
30	9	38			4	83				18	9	3					2	157
Total	223.2	906	35	5	148	2880	102	17	88	1789	871	93	5	99	8	3	2242	9291

May, 1991

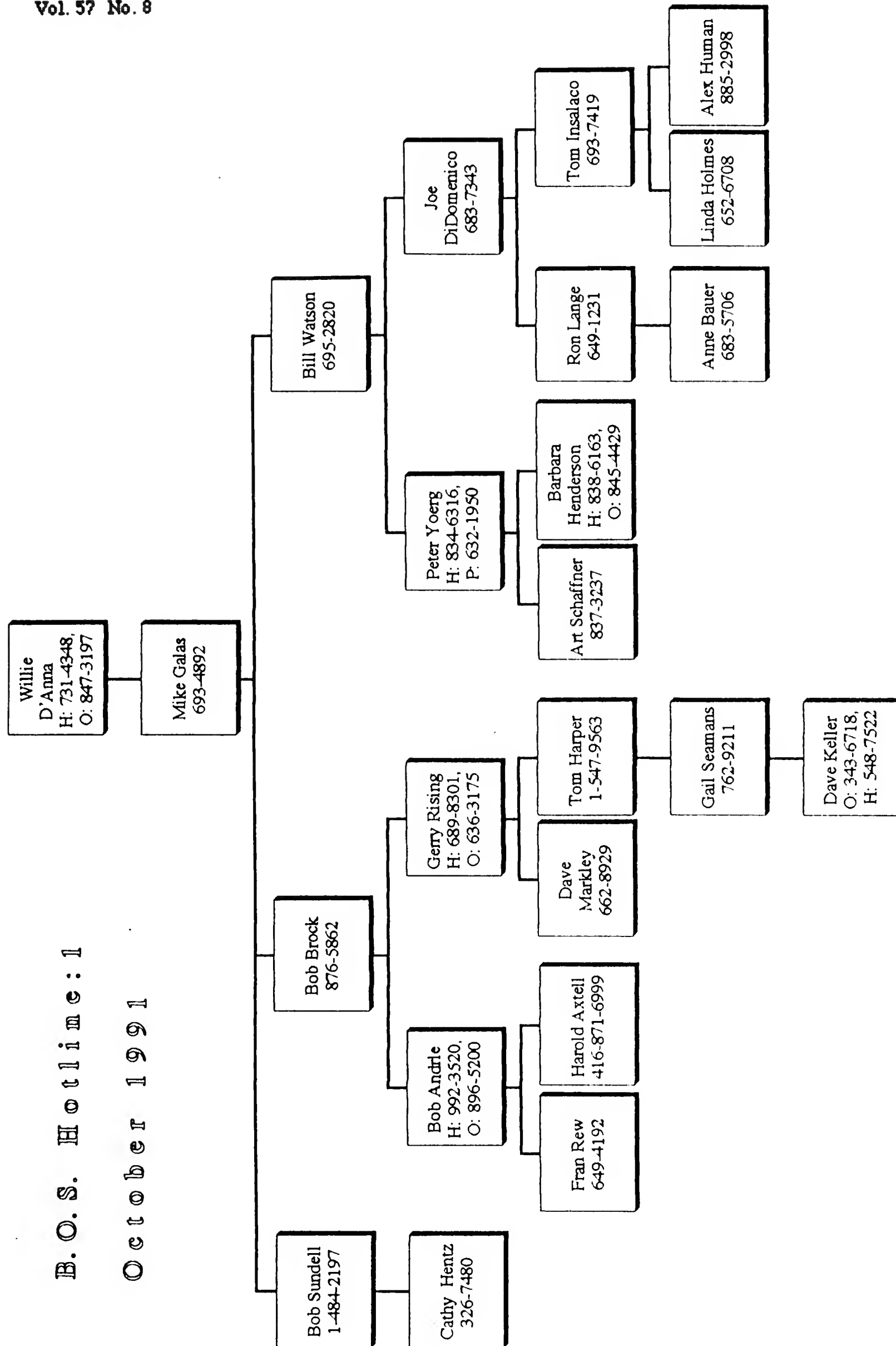
Date	Hours	TV	OS	NH	SS	CH	RS	BW	RT	RL	AK	Unld	Total
01	7.5	3		2	37	1	1	1	13	1			59
02	8.5	5	1		9	2			3		2		22
03	8	4	1		38			11	6				60
04	9			5	100	3	2	179	52	4	2	15	362
05	9	3	3	7	131			24	22	4	3	1	198
06	7.3	8	1	3	18	2		13	10	1	3		59
07	8.75	7	1	1	41	1		2	8	1	1	2	65
08	7.2	13	1	2	37			8	7	1		3	72
09	9	14		2	105			2	1				124
10	7	10	1	1	47			20	23			1	103
11	8.33	30		1	44	5		6	12			9	107
12	5.25				10		1	4	5				20
13	7.2	21	2	1	44	1		4	18				91
14	0												0
15	7.5	1			6	2					1		10
	End	OF	Cove	rage									
Total	109.5	119	11	25	667	17	4	274	180	12	12	31	1352

SUMMARY

Date	Hours	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	P6	Unld	Total
March	215.8	760		12	46	220	101	3	669		1972	40	3	69	3	2	408	4308
April	223.2	906	35	5	148	2820	102	17	88	1789	871	93	5	99	8	3	2242	9291
May	109.5	119	11		25	667	17		4	274	180	12		12			31	1352
Total	548.5	1785	46	17	219	3767	220	20	761	2063	3023	145	8	180	11	5	2681	14951

B.O.S. Hotline: 1

October 1991



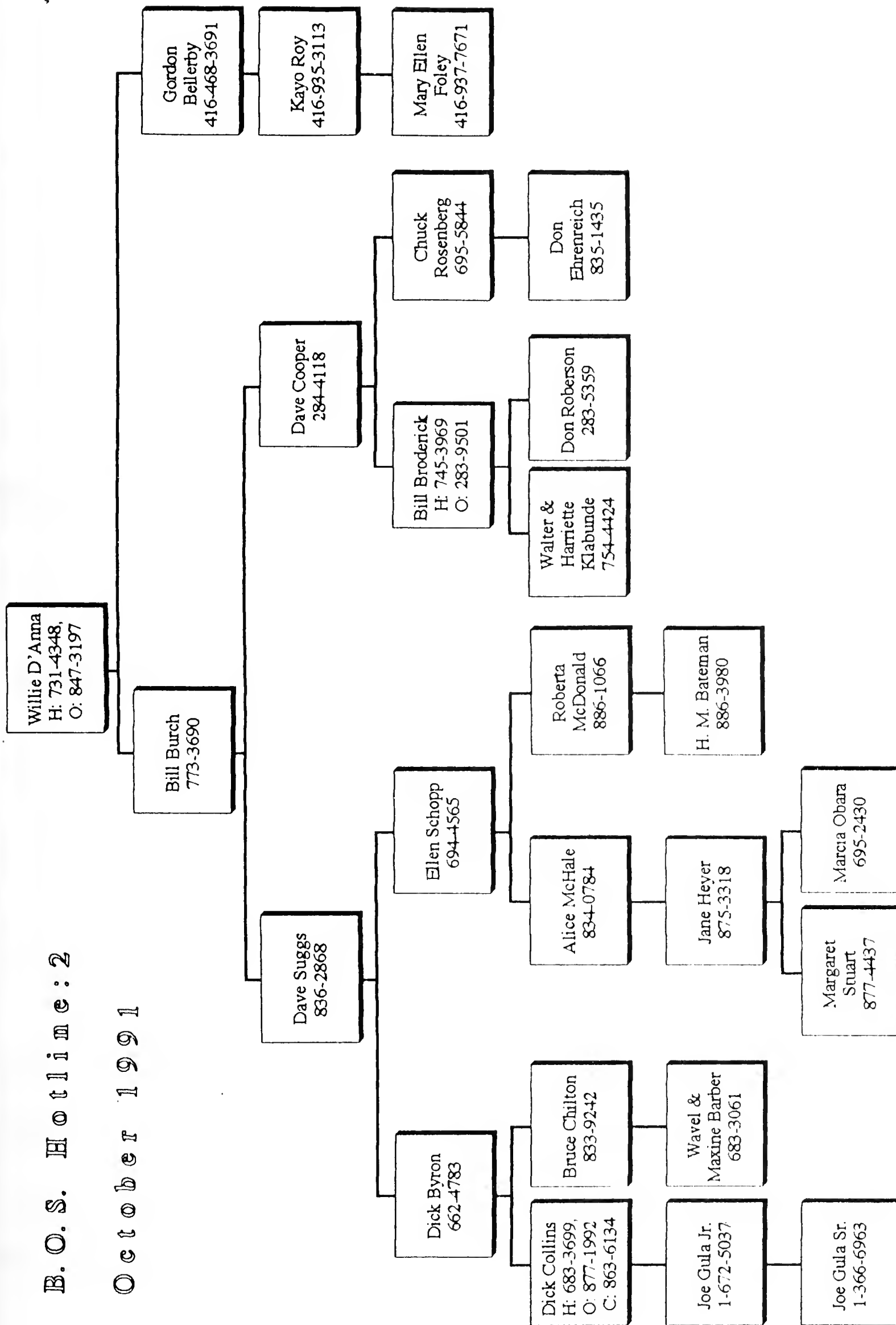
1) If you see a rare or unusual bird that you think others would be interested in, please call (ASAP):
Willie D'Anna 731-4348 OR Mike Galas 693-4892 OR Bill Burch 773-3690

2) After you have been called, please contact the person(s) indicated by the chart. **IMPORTANT:** If you are unable to reach your contact, call the person(s) whom they should call.

3) If you expect to be out of town for some time, please inform the person who calls you.

B.O.S. Hotline: 2

October 1991



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Willie D'Anna 731-4348 OR Mike Galas 693-4892 OR Bill Burch 773-3690

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please Note the Following Change of Address:

Ellen Schopp
74 Fletcher St.
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Tel. 694-4565

BOS MEETINGS

Sept. 11: Members' Slide Night. All members are invited to share slides of their summer (or other recent) birding adventures. This is always an enjoyable evening. Plan to attend even if you don't have any slides to share.

Nov. 20: Kenn Kaufman will speak, his program: "Owl in a Day's Work". This is not a regular BOS meeting night, however, this special event is being co-sponsored by BOS.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

Sept. 15: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for fall migrants. Meet at 8:00 am at Amherst Book World store, 1/10 mi. east of Main and Transit. Leader: Mike Galas (639-4892).

Sept. 20-22: Meeting of Federation of NYS Bird Club in Syracuse, NY.

Sept. 27-29: Cape May Weekend of the New Jersey Audubon Society. Register by September 5 for the \$221 package or bird on your own this or a nearby date.

Sept. 29: Sunday. Bird Island Pier. Meet at 9:00 am at Broderick Park (on the river at the foot of Ferry Street) for a walk along the 1.3 mi. long pier. Leader: TBA. This is a half-day trip.

Oct. 5-6: Saturday-Sunday. Possibility of joining a Pelagic trip out of Montauk, Long Island. Call Bill Broderick (1-745-3969) for details.

- Oct. 6: Sunday. Hamilton, Ont. for a trip to Dundas Marsh and Cootes Paradise Lagoon. Meet at 7:00 am at Howard Johnson's parking lot in Niagara Falls, NY where I-190 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd., Hwy 62. Leader: Bruce Clinton (833-9242).
- Oct. 13: Sunday. BOS October Bird Count. Plan to take part.
- Oct. 20: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 8:00 am at Amherst Book World store, 1/10 mi. east of Main and Transit. Leader: Dave Keller (1-548-7522).
- Oct. 26: SATURDAY (not Sunday). Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara & Orleans Counties. Meet in Wrights' Corners (north of Lockport) on Hwy 78 at the Tops market at 8:00 am. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).
- Oct. 27: Daylight Saving Time ends, set clocks back one hour.
- Nov. 3: Sunday. Niagara River Loop. Meet at 8:00 am at Vermont & Busti or at 8:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Bill Broderick (1-745-3969).
- Nov. 17: Sunday. Niagara River for Gulls and waterfowl. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 9:30 am at Old Fort Niagara in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS & Bob Brock (876-5862).
- Dec. 1: Sunday. Buffalo waterfront and Niagara River. Meet at 8:00 am at the Vermont & Busti entrance to the Peace Bridge.
- Dec. 15: Sunday. BOS Christmas bird count.
- Dec. 21: Saturday. Audubon Chestnut Ridge Christmas Count. Compiler: Paul Lazarus (633-4185).
- Dec. 22: Sunday. Niagara Falls, Ontario-NY Christmas bird count. Compiler: Kay's Roy (Ont) & Willie D'Anna (NY).
- Dec. 28: Saturday. Beaver Meadow Christmas Count. Compiler: Dave Junkin (457-3228).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Buffalo Museum of Science
Buffalo, New York 14211

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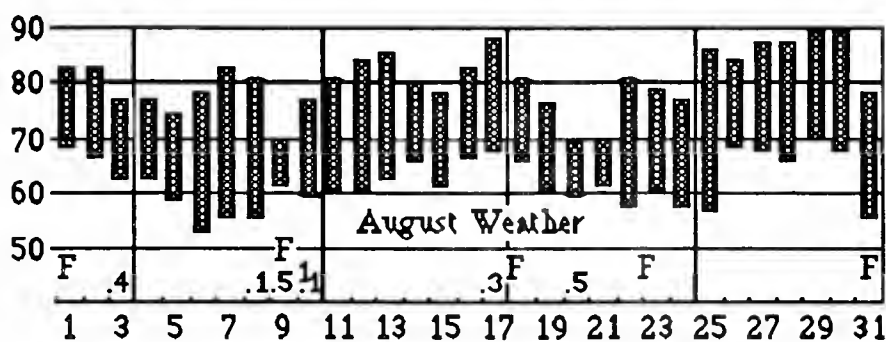
Number 9

THE MONTH: August 1991

August was warmer than usual, the temperature averaging 71.0° , 2.1° above normal. Despite that, August averaged almost a full degree less warm than July. It was the 11th month of above normal temperatures. It warmed to 80° or above on 18 days in August, one more than in July, but the temperature never reached 90° . It did come close during a string of hot, uncomfortably humid, and hazy days late in the month. (This year the eastern seaboard suffered from the heat more seriously: Philadelphia, for example, had over 40 days of above 90° temperatures.) Sunshine for the month was 63%.

Total precipitation at the Buffalo Airport was 2.8 inches, 1.3 inches below normal. Even that rain was extremely local in character, some areas getting none when others enjoyed at least brief showers. Total rainfall for June, July, and August was just over 7 inches, making them the driest 3 months since 1957.

Even the winds were mild during the month, peak gusts recorded at the airport never reaching 40 mph and on only 6 days rising above 30.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, Ss stationary fronts, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 3rd was a Saturday, the 4th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

25th (Sunday) may or may not relate to the fronts that passed through on the 9th, early 18th, and 23rd. With that reservation, however, we can consider a few records. For the front of the 9th: 320 Semipalmated Sandpipers on the 10th. For the front of the early 18th: 38 Black-bellied Plovers, 23 Baird's Sandpipers, a Franklin's Gull, and 240 Bank Swallows all on the 18th; and a number of other species early in the following week including a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 400 Purple Martins, 3 Nashville

There were, however, two storms that did hit the area. The first was a thunderstorm on the 10th that brought over an inch of rain and caused local flooding and some property damage in north Buffalo and Cheektowaga. The other was a local windstorm well south of the city early on the morning of the 31st. This storm also caused some property damage.

I find very little correlation between the fronts moving through the region and the bird records that have been forwarded. Since most birding is done on weekends, the fact that some first fall dates occurred on the 10th (Saturday), 18th (Sunday), and

Warblers, and a Wilson's Warbler all on the 21st. For the front of the 23rd: a Blue-winged Warbler and a Blackburnian Warbler on the 24th; and 2 Caspian Terns, a Willet, 3 Knots, 110 Nighthawks, and 4 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on the 25th.

Before turning to a few more general records, consider the record of fall warbler arrivals as compared with the records of the previous 5 years: 1986-1990. The 1991 records that are earliest are highlighted.

Arrival Dates for Fall Warblers: 1986-1991

Species	1991	86-90 Average	86-90 Earliest	Records 86-90
Blue-winged Warbler	24	18	7 (90)	5
Golden-winged Warbler	31	29	28 (90)	3
Tennessee Warbler	22	25	17 (87)	4
Nashville Warbler	21	21	18 (88)	4
Northern Parula	—	29	27 (88)	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	17	18	11 (87)	5
Magnolia Warbler	10	16	7 (87)	5
Cape May Warbler	15	22	21 (88)	4
Black-th. Blue Warbler	22	23	19 (89)	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	10	21	16 (88)	4
Black-th. Green Warbler	22	25	20 (90)	5
Blackburnian Warbler	8	16	9 (86)	5
Pine Warbler	—	23	23 (89)	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	22	24	19 (86)	4
Blackpoll Warbler	28	26	22 (90)	4
Black-and-White Warbler	10	13	9 (86)	5
American Redstart	15	14	11 (87, 89)	3
Ovenbird	30	24	20 (90)	3
Northern Waterthrush	2	14	4 (87)	5
Louisiana Waterthrush	—	20	17 (87)	2
Mourning Warbler	8	20	19 (89)	3
Wilson's Warbler	21	24	19 (89)	5
Canada Warbler	8	19	11 (87)	5

The population of Double-crested Cormorants appears to be doubling each year. To see this, consider the maximum counts for the past 6 years: 1986: 10, 1987: 4, 1988: 6, 1989: 68, 1990: 166, 1991: 310; and compare those records with the numbers if they had doubled: 10, 20, 40, 80, 160, 320. At the other end of the color scale, Great Egret numbers were low this year. Only 2 separate individuals were recorded this year against the average maximum of 8 for the previous 5 years.

Once again this year unexpected diving ducks appeared, both at Rock Point. This month's divers were an Oldsquaw in the 2nd and a White-winged Scoter on the 30th.

Among shorebirds high counts since 1986 were recorded for Black-bellied Plover 38 on the 18th; Semipalmated Plover 17 on the 17th; Lesser Yellowlegs 60 on the 3rd; Semipalmated Sandpiper 320 on the 10th; Least Sandpiper 90 on the 3rd; Baird's Sandpiper 23 on the 18th; and Pectoral Sandpiper 140 on the 3rd. White-rumped Sandpipers on the other hand were few and far between after last year's wide distribution: the maximum of 5 on the 21st this year compares with 30 on the 26th last year.

With the problems faced by Common Nighthawks that I noted in July, it is good to see Hess's observations of reasonable numbers (110 maximum this year) gathering in the Tonawandas just before migration. For the first time in 6 years no Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen this month.

Pitzrick's Amity Lake bluebird trail had 33 pairs fledging 138 young. Her interesting summary indicates that other nest boxes were used by: 77 Tree Swallows, 22 House Wrens, 1 Tufted Titmouse, 5 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 Purple Martins, 5 Wood Ducks, 1 Hooded Merganser, and 1 Great Crested Flycatcher (these last clearly not bluebird boxes). She also notes that food is abundant in the Southern Tier, especially hawthorn fruits, apples and dogwood berries. My hiking in the area supports these estimates of food crops. I would add that cone crops appear good as well. — G. Rising

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	5	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Pied-billed Grebe	18	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory
D.-crest Cormorant	5-31	86-310	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	10, 11	3, 3	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
"	16, 25	91, 72	Rock Point PP	Rising, Watson et al
"	21	28	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory
"	24	10	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
Great Egret	15	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	31	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Rising et al
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	4	1	Crescent Bch, Ont	D'Anna
"	10	3	Buffalo	Watson et al
"	17, 27	1, 2	Tifft NP	Rising, Watson et al
<u>Mute Swan</u>	18, 21	1	Bird Is Pier, Bflo	Watson, D&D Suggs
Green-winged Teal	4	3	Iroquois NWR	Rising et al
"	10	1	Smithville, Ont	Watson et al
Northern Pintail	24	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	24	1	Lewiston Reservoir	D'Anna
Blue-winged Teal	4	80	Iroquois NWR	Rising et al
Gadwall	3	1	Crescent Bch, Ont	Humann
"	31	2	Iroquois NWR	Rising, Watson et al
American Wigeon	27	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	31	5	Times Bch, Ont	Watson
Oldsquaw	2	1	Rock Point PP	Andrle et al
White-w. Scoter	30F	1	Rock Point PP	Yoerg et al
Hooded Merganser	31	2	Times Beach, Bflo	Andrle, Gregory
Common Merganser	10	2	Rock Point PP	Rising et al
Red-br. Merganser	1-16	1-2	Lake Erie SP	Flory
"	10	1	Crescent Bch, Ont	Humann
"	19, 31	1, 1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Osprey	6F	1	Port Colborne	Watson
"	10	1	Rock Point PP	Watson, Rising et al
"	17	1	Crescent Beach	Humann
"	29, 31	1, 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory, Goetz
"	31	1	Tifft NP	Andrle, Gregory
Sharp-sh. Hawk	10-31	6 reports	L. Erie plain & Tonawanda WMA	
Cooper's Hawk	20, 24	1, 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	31	1	Tifft NP	Andrle, Gregory
Red-should. Hawk	7-15	1-3	Amity Lake	V&RPitzrick
Black-bell. Plover	4	3	Bertie Twp, Ont	D'Anna
"	18	38	Moulton Twp, Ont	D'Anna

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Semipalmated Plover	17	17	Rock Point PP	Humann
"	20	11	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	60	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	42	Rock Point PP	Humann
* Willet	25	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	D'Anna, Byron (BOS)
Whimbrel	21	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	D&D Suggs
Red Knot	4F, 25	1, 3	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, Watson et al
Semipalm. Sandpiper	10, 16	320, 150	Rock Point PP	Rising et al
Least Sandpiper	3	90	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	51	Rock Point PP	Humann
White-r. Sandpiper	2F-25	1-2	Rock Point PP	Andrie, D'Anna et al
"	3	1	Pomfret Twp.	Moshers, Klayborn
"	21	5	Erie Beach, Ont.	Heyer (EABC)
* Baird's Sandpiper	15F, 17	9, 10	Rock Point PP	Andrie, Humann et al
"	18	22	Rock Point PP	D'Anna et al
"	18	1	Smithville, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers, Gula Sr.
"	25	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	140	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	43	Rock Point PP	Humann
Stilt Sandpiper	3	6	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna, Potter
Short-b. Dowitcher	17	27	Rock Point PP	Humann
Wilson's Phalarope	3	1	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1	Smithville, Ont.	Rising, Watson et al
* Franklin's Gull	18F	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Heyer (EABC)
Little Gull	6F, 16	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Watson, Rising et al
Caspian Tern	4	1	Iroquois NWR	Rising et al
"	5-17	3-5	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
"	24, 31	2, 2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson et al
"	10-25	4 reports	Lake Erie	
Black Tern	6	94	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Watson et al
Black-b. Cuckoo	17F	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Rising
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	31F	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna, O'Donnell
Common Nighthawk	14, 23, 25	5, 88, 110	Tonawanda & Tona. Twp.	Hess
"	26, 27	4, 2	Amherst	D&D Suggs
Chimney Swift	21	500 (est)	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	D&D Suggs
Red-headed Wdpr.	3-31	4 reports	Lake Erie plain	
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	21F	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Acadian Flycatcher	20	2 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Horned Lark	10	30	Wainfleet Twp.	Watson et al
Purple Martin	21	400 (est)	Bflo. & Tonawanda	D'Anna
Bank Swallow	2	580	Grand Island	Watson
"	18	240	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna
Cliff Swallow	2	2	Grand Island	Watson
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	1-5	Amity Lake	Pitzrick et al
"	28, 31	1, 1	Tifft NP	D'Anna et al
"	31	2	Sheldon	O. Rosche
Red-br. Nuthatch	31F	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna, O'Donnell
Carolina Wren	4	5	Bertie Twp, Ont.	D'Anna
"	25	7	Westfield Twp.	Sundell
"	1-31	8 reports	throughout region	
Golden-cr. Kinglet	20	8 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Golden-cr. Kinglet	23	1 PDBA	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	4F	2	Rock Point PP	D'Anna
"	4-29	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	25	4	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	Watson, Byron (BOS)
Swainson's Thrush	30F	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	31	1	Tifft NP	Andrle, Gregory
"	31	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Watson, Galas
Northern Mockingbird	17	1	Tifft NP	Watson et al
Yellow-thr. Vireo	31	1	Iroquois NWR	Rising et al
Philadelphia Vireo	27F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	30	2	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Blue-wing. Warbler	24F	1	Bourne's Beach	Sundell
"	30	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	31	1	Tifft NP	Andrle, Gregory
"	31	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Watson et al
Golden-winged Warbler	31F	1	Tifft NP	Andrle, Gregory
Tennessee Warbler	22F	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
Nashville Warbler	21F	3	East Aurora	Holmes
"	28	2	Tifft NP	D'Anna
Chestnut-s. Warbler	17F	2	Tifft NP	Rising et al
"	22	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
Magnolia Warbler	10F	2	Rock Point PP	Rising et al
"	17	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Cape May Warbler	15F	1	Rock Point PP	Andrle, Thill
"	22	2	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	22F	1-2	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson
Yellow-r. Warbler	10F	2	Rock Point PP	Watson et al
"	19	2	Goat Island	D'Anna
Bl. thr. Green Warbler	22F	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Blackburnian Warbler	8F	3	Rock Point PP	Andrle, Roberson
"	24	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Bay-br. Warbler	22F	2	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	5	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Blackpoll Warbler	28F	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna
"	30	3	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Cerulean Warbler	4	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Watson
Bl.-&-w. Warbler	7	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	10F	3	Rock Point PP	Rising et al
"	17	1	Tifft NP	Watson
American Redstart	15F	1	Rock Point PP	Andrle, Thill
"	17	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Ovenbird	30F	9	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Northern Waterthrush	2F	2	Rock Point PP	Andrle et al
"	6	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Watson
Mourning Warbler	8F	2	Niagara Falls	Roberson
Hooded Warbler	31	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Watson et al
Wilson's Warbler	21F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	22	2	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
Canada Warbler	8F	1	Rock Point PP	Andrle, Roberson
"	20	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Scarlet Tanager	31F	1	Tifft NP	Andrle, Gregory

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	253
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	3
Total for year.	256

4th Annual Little Biddy Birdathon

The announcement of the winners of the 4th Little Biddy Birdathon may seem redundant: those formidable Roadrunners - Dick Collins, Mike Galas, Jerry Rising and Joe DiDomenico - were again victorious, keeping custody of the impressive Rubber Ducky Award for the fourth year in a row. Winning by the skin of their teeth this year, the Roadrunners tied for total points (94) with the Don't Whip Poor Wills (Willie, D'Anna, Ellen Schopp, Bill Watson, Don Roberson & Pat O'Donnell.) The decision on the winner was then based on the total number of species, with the Roadrunners gleaning 79, the Wills spotting 77. The Poor Wills were whipped.* The Wills also were forced to disqualify one of their double pointers, the Northern Bobwhite, as this species is not yet rated as indiginous.

*(The procedure for a decision in a tie was determined after the 2nd Birdathon when you may recall, the Leisurely Ladies Lister's League tied with the Roadrunners.)

Third place seems to be permanently captured by the Yellow-Bellied Saps, with 91 points. This team (Sharon Sisti, Yours Truly & Jim Horn) has come in 3rd every year except last year, when they were rained out. The Saps did net an impressive 17 species of warblers which accounted for their high overall score.

Overall, the total number of species seen by all 11 teams was 146, the lowest of the four years of the competition. We hope this is not a trend.

Thanks to everybody who participated once again. We all had fun (I hope) and hats off to those Roadrunners, who will look dapper, no doubt, next year when they wear their prizes: "I'm a Warbler Watcher" baseball birding caps!

Detailed results as follows:

11 Teams participated, total of 43 birders.

Total Species seen by all teams - 146 species.

Total double pointers - 41 species

Team with most species seen - Roadrunners, 79 species

Team with most double pointers - Don't Whip Poor Wills, 9 species

Team with most warblers - Yellow Bellied Saps, 17 species

First Place: Roadrunners: Dick Collins, Mike Galas, Jerry Rising, Joe DiDomenico

94 points total, 79 species, 7 warbler species, 7 double pointers: Mute Swan, Osprey, Semipalmated plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipet, Prothonotary Warbler [Turf Farms, Iroquois NWR] 5/19/91.

2nd Place: Don't Whip Poor Wills: Willie D'Anna, Ellen Schopp, Bill Watson, Don Roberson, Pat O'Donnell.

94 points total, 77 species, 7 warbler species, 9 double pointers: American Black Duck, Ruddy Duck, Whimbrell, White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Brewster's Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow [Iroquois & vicinity] 5/25/91.

3rd Place: Yellow-Bellied Saps: H.M. Bateman, Sharon Sisti, Jim Horn

91 points total, 66 species, 17 warbler species, 5 double pointers: Hermit Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow-breasted Chat [Tifft NP & Williamsville Glen] 5/12/91

4th Place: Swallow Hollow Five: Dennis Gralak, Susan Gralak, Joyce Varna, Stan Sacha, Gloria Sacha.

74 points total, 62 species, 11 warbler species, 1 double pointer: Red-breasted Nuthatch 5/12/91

- 5th Place: Junco's: David Junkin, Marty Junkin, Hans Kunze
69 points total, 52 species, 8 warbler species, 7 double pointers: Wild Turkey Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Sandpiper, Veery, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush & JUNCO (of course) [Beaver Meadow Audubon Cntr.] 5/13/91.
- 6th Place: LaidbackLawyers: Ken Cohen, Lauren Raichlen, Patricia Porter,
68 points total, 60 species, 6 warbler species, 2 double pointers: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker [Iroquois area] 5/12/91.
- 7th Place: Southtown Sharpies: Robert Andrie, Frances Rew, Barbara Walker
67 points total, 55 species, 9 warbler species, 2 double pointers: Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Horned Owl [Tifft NP, Times Beach] 5/20/91.
- 8th Place: Weespotiforms Donald Brasure, Elaine Treake, Eurlene Powell, Shirley Landstittel, Marge Giles, Katherine DiVito (1 too many participants, would be disqualified if contending for 1st place - but such a great team name we let it go)
62 points total, 50 species, 9 warbler species, 2 double pointers: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-throated Blue Warbler [Tifft NP] 5/18/91.
- 9th Place: VickiesVultures: Vickie Onorato, Steve Tirone, Earlene Powell, Steve Kondirk, Willaim Scott
59 points total, 52 species, 6 warbler species, 3 double pointers: Hooded Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Prairie Warbler.
- 10th Place: LeisurelyLadiesListersLeague: Frances Rew, Audrey Horbitt, Barbara Walker
58 points total, 49 species, 7 warbler species, 2 double pointers: Least Bittern, Brown Creeper [Tifft NP] 5/15/91.
- 11th Place: Tweeters Five: Linda Holmes, Jane Heyer, Alice McHale, Mary Saville, Margaret Stewart
55 points total, 47 species, 6 warbler species, 2 double pointers: Alder Flycatcher, Carolina Wren [Tifft NP] 5/22/91.

BOS MYSTERY FIELD TRIP August 11, 1991

The Mystery trip, to maximize birding potential, was planned for the Canadian shore of Lake Erie. At our meeting place at the Peace Bridge toll plaza, there were 40 Chimney Swifts overhead. Our caravan of four cars drove directly to Rock Point Provincial Park.

We were encouraged to find the shoreline well populated with ten species of shorebirds. Most prominent were Semipalmated Sandpipers - 180, Least Sandpipers - 40, Lesser yellowlegs - 45, Semipalmated Plovers - 11, Short-billed Dowitchers - 19 and Ruddy Turnstones - 19. The total shorebird estimate was 325.

An interesting sign of fall migration was the phenomenon of migrating Monarch butterflies clinging to the trees along the dunes. A stop at Jaeger Rocks gave us another reminder of fall where a flock of 250 molting Bonaparte's Gulls faced the cool breeze.

Paul Benham

Williamsville Glen: Spring 1991

Since 1989, spring records have been separately compiled for the Williamsville Glen. (Previous reports are in *Prothonotary* 55, 6: 68-70, and 56, 6: 73-74.) This year many observers contributed to the intensive coverage of this unique warbler trap, the following providing records for this summary: Don Brasure, Mike Davis, Linda Holmes, Tom Insalaco, Bruce Johnson, Ron Lange, Scott Meier, Gerry Rising, Mae Ruhl, and Peter Yoerg.

Although lists were submitted for hikes in January (2), February (1), March (4), and April (1 not included here), this summary only covers the period April 14 to May 22. Over that period 4 of the 17 days in April and 16 of the 22 in May were censused: over 62 party hours spent in the Glen.

Here is some comparative data for the three years with overall maximums accented:

Single Day High Counts	Overall Totals		
	1989	1990	1991
Warbler species	18	23	22
Warbler individuals	104	132	118
All species	58	72	73
All individuals	214	283	315

Overall Totals	Overall Totals		
	1989	1990	1991
Warbler species	25	24	27
		+1 subsp	
All species	94	102	106

All of the single day records were attained on May 12 with the exception of the 118 individual warblers which were seen on May 8. Migration peaks appear to have occurred this year on April 14 and 28, May 1, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 19. Although this year's records seem to suggest a steady flow of birds through mid-May, considerably lower numbers were recorded on intermediate dates. Since cold fronts moved through this region on April 17 and 23 and May 6 and 17, it is not possible to associate these records with weather patterns. In 1990, the peak days were April 28, and May 7, 15, and 21; in 1989 they were May 3-5 and 19.

Birds tallied but not included on the chart (with dates if seen 3 times or less) are: Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron (May 1), Mallard, Turkey Vulture (May 1), Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk (April 14), Broad-winged Hawk (May 1, 3), Red-tailed Hawk (May 7, 19), American Kestrel (April 14), Ring-necked Pheasant (April 30), Killdeer (April 25), Spotted Sandpiper (May 6, 19), Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Black-billed Cuckoo (May 19), Great Horned Owl (May 1, 12, 19), Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (May 10), Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch (May 3, 12), White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (May 1), American Robin, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Bobolink (May 10), Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

Species observed in 1991 but not in 1990 or 1989: Black-crowned Night Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Swamp Sparrow. Species observed in 1989 or 1990 but not this year: American Bittern, Green-backed Heron, Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Solitary Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Winter Wren, Wood Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Brewster's Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Field Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin. — G. Rising

The 1991 Spring Migration in Williamsville Glen

1991 Wmsville Glen	A P R I L				M A Y															
	14	25	28	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	17	19	22
Olive-sided Flycatcher														1	1					
Eastern Wood-Pewee																				4
Alder Flycatcher																		1		
Willow Flycatcher					1															1
Least Flycatcher										4			2	5		2	2		1	
Eastern Phoebe			1	1						1				1						2
Great Crested Flycatcher					1		1			3		1		1		1	1		3	2
Eastern Kingbird										2				1		2				2
Tree Swallow						1										1		2		
No. Rough-winged Swallow		1			8		1			2										
Barn Swallow				1							6			2		4			7	2
Tufted Titmouse				1						1										
Brown Creeper		1				1														
Carolina Wren				1			1	1								1				1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	22	1						1								1				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		5		2	10			3		8	3		3	3		4				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher					1															
Veery												2		1		1			1	
Gray-cheeked Thrush										1										
Swainson's Thrush													2	2		1			4	
Hermit Thrush												1		1						
Gray Catbird						1				2			5	8		13	6	6	15	6
Brown Thrasher								1								1				
Cedar Waxwing																10			3	
Solitary Vireo							2	2				1	1	2		1				
Yellow-throated Vireo												1		1						
Warbling Vireo			2				1					2	2	1		6			1	
Philadelphia Vireo												1		1		4	1		2	
Red-eyed Vireo												1	1			2	1	1	4	1
Blue-winged Warbler						1						1								
Golden-winged Warbler														1		1				
Tennessee Warbler									1			1		1	1	2	2			
Nashville Warbler							2			8		2	5	5		5				
Northern Parula														1		3	1			
Yellow Warbler			4		12	1	2	3	1	4	2	3	4	5	1	4	1	1	4	3
Chestnut-sided Warbler					1		1		5	6		10	6	4		4	3			
Magnolia Warbler									1	2		6	3	4	1	19	4	1	2	1
Cape May Warbler																4	1			
Black-throated Blue Warbler										1		4	2	6		4	2			
Yellow-rumped Warbler		9	15		15	2	15	11	20	20	16	50	25	45	3	26	4			
Black-throated Green Warbler			2			2	3		6	24	4	12	6	4		5	3			
Blackburnian Warbler			3							2		10	2	2	1	3	2		1	2
Pine Warbler			1		2															
Palm Warbler			1		1		1		1	1		3	2	2		1				
Bay-breasted Warbler													1	3		7			2	
Blackpoll Warbler										2						1			1	1
Cerulean Warbler												2								
Black-and-White Warbler			4		1		1	2		1		7	3	2		5	1			
American Redstart												4	3	3	1	6	2		4	1
Worm-eating Warbler														1						

The 1991 Spring Migration in Williamsville Glen

1991 Wmsville Glen	A P R I L				M A Y															
	14	25	28	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	17	19	22
Ovenbird												1		2		2			1	
Northern Waterthrush					1		1					1		1		1				
Common Yellow-throat												1		2		2			1	
Hooded Warbler														1						
Wilson's Warbler														1		2			1	
Canada Warbler																1	2			
unspecified warblers			20					1												
Scarlet Tanager										1			1			2				1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak														2		2	1		2	
Rufous-sided Towhee														1						
Lincoln's Sparrow														2						
Swamp Sparrow		1												1						
White-throated Sparrow			3	1	1					1				17		2				1
White-crowned Sparrow	1									2				1		2				
Dark-eyed Junco		1			1	1														
Northern Oriole											1		1	4		3	2		1	
Total Individuals	273	181	218	161	231	230	nr	173	nr	259	151	143	214	278	nr	315	44	33	293	99
Total Species	24	30	31	29	41	29	nr	33	nr	44	29	26	44	70	nr	73	21	19	50	31
Total Individual Warblers	0	9	30	0	33	6	26	16	35	71	22	118	62	96	8	108	28	2	17	8
Total Warbler Species	0	1	7	0	7	4	8	3	7	11	3	17	12	21	6	22	13	2	9	5

Call for 1991 Bird Island Records

Once again I seek records of observations from the Bird Island Pier, this year including birds seen from the island itself. Check-lists for reporting field trips to this unique observation area may be obtained from Bill Watson, Mike Galas, or me at B.O.S. meetings or you can call me at 689-8301 to have copies mailed to you.

Please return the record of your observations to any of us three and be sure to forward a copy to Willy D'Anna for monthly compilation. — G. Rising

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please note the following address changes:

Kathleen Hentz
7764 Martin Wright Rd
Westfield, NY 14787

Dr David Wilcove
Environmental Defense Fund
1616 P Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

BOS MEETINGS

Nov. 20: Kenn Kaufman will speak, his program: "Owl in a Day's Work". This is not a regular BOS meeting night, however, this special event is being co-sponsored by BOS.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at

8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

Oct. 20: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 8:00 am at Amherst Book World store, 1/10 mi. east of Main and Transit. Leader: Dave Keller (1-548-7522).

Oct. 26: SATURDAY (not Sunday). Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara & Orleans Counties. Meet in Wrights' Corners (north of Lockport) on Hwy 78 at the Tops market at 8:00 am. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).

Oct. 27: Daylight Saving Time ends, set clocks back one hour.

Nov. 3: Sunday. Niagara River Loop. Meet at 8:00 am at Vermont & Busti or at 8:15 at first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Bill Broderick (1-745-3969).

Nov. 17: Sunday. Niagara River for Gulls and waterfowl. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 9:30 am at Old Fort Niagara in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS & Bob Brock (876-5862).

Dec. 1: Sunday. Buffalo waterfront and Niagara River. Meet at 8:00 am at the Vermont & Busti entrance to the Peace Bridge.

Dec. 15: Sunday. BOS Christmas bird count.

Dec. 21: Saturday. Audubon Chestnut Ridge Christmas Count. Compiler: Paul Lazarus (633-4185).

Dec. 22: Sunday. Niagara Falls, Ontario-NY Christmas bird count. Compiler: Kay's Roy (Ont) & Willie D'Anna (NY).

Dec. 28: Saturday. Beaver Meadow Christmas Count. Compiler: Dave Junkin (457-3228).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer:

Jane Heyer
296 Westchester Blvd
Kenmore, NY 14210
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THE MONTH: September 1991

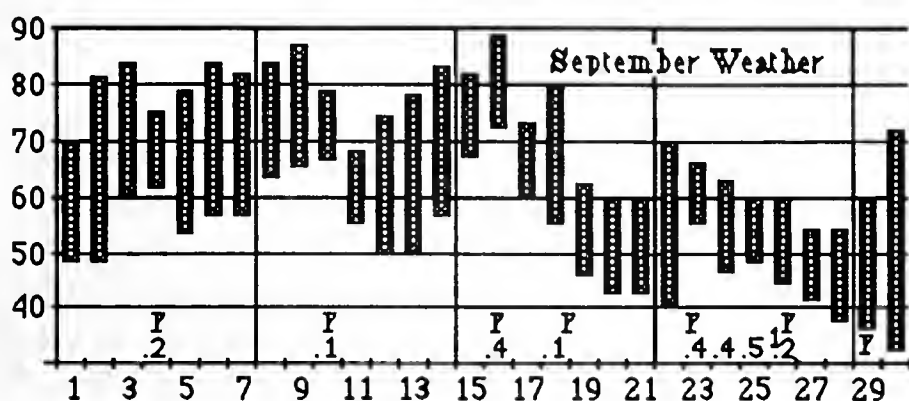
This year fall weather began a few days early on September 19th. Until the 18th summer continued in full force: both very warm and very dry, extending the drought of recent months. After that date the month was very cold and very wet. As a result the overall averages were near normal: temperature 62° , 0.1° below normal; precipitation 3.2 inches, less than a quarter inch below normal. But consider the separate averages. September 1-18: temperature average 68° , total precipitation 0.7 inches; September 19-30: temperature average 52° , total precipitation 2.5 inches. To show the contrast in another way: the 89° temperature on the 16th beat the old high for that date by 5° ; the 32° temperature on the 30th beat the old low by 3° .

Some areas experienced frost on the 20th and 21st, but the first widespread killing frost was on the 30th. Despite the uniformly high temperatures of the past year, this marked the end of a 171 day growing season, 9 days below average. The cold spell also brought the Lake Erie temperature down 8° to 64° at the end of the month.

Winds were again mild. On only one day, the 16th, did one-minute gusts reach 30 mph. As is usual for any time of year, but even more so in the fall, the prevailing winds were from the west. On only 7 days did the average wind direction depart from this left half of the compass rose. At the same time on only 9 days was there any north in the wind to help push migrants into and through the area.

The month's bird records are generally unexciting. The only exceptional waterfowl report was of a White-winged Scoter on the 2nd at Rock Point.

No hawk flight was recorded although 5 Sharp-shins were seen on the 14th. The maximum number of Broad-wings was 2! But then hawk flights are not generally looked for in the fall here. The geography is not especially conducive to these flights; you would think, however, that some hawks would turn southeast around the west end of Lake Ontario and be seen as they come around the east end of Lake Erie.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 7th was a Saturday, the 8th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

Evidently that number is small, because observers looking for fall shorebirds along the north shore of Lake Erie would surely see some of these birds.

Shorebird reports were also generally unexceptional. A good count of 67 Black-bellied Plovers on the 2nd is deflated by a maximum count of 4 Lesser Golden Plovers also recorded on that date. Best shorebird: a Whimbrel on the 7th was the first September record since 1986.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull was found on the 15th on Chautauqua Lake by Sundell, the only September record in recent years. But no Sabine's Gulls were reported this month for the first time in 4 years.

Continuing the bad news about Common Nighthawk, this year's high count of migrants was 21, comparing with previous September highs (reading back through the years): 160, 71, 300, 37, and 56. Chimney Swifts were just the opposite, the count of 900 over 300 more than recent maxima. Three Yellow-bellied Flycatchers would be tough calls and might otherwise be questionable records, but these were recorded in the hand by bird bander Brooks in Alfred. Eaton continues to provide Common Raven reports from the Allegany State Park area. Only 2 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were recorded this month. Compare this with 8 last year and 6, 4, 9, and 5 in preceding years. And a few American Pipits were observed, the count of 15 on the 21st the highest count in the most recent 6 years. This gives some indication of how sporadic are these nervous little birds.

Here are the warblers with this year's published record compared the number of times reported in the previous 5 years' noteworthy records:

S P E C I E S	1991	1986-90	S P E C I E S	1991	1986-90
Blue-winged Warbler	yes	5	Palm Warbler	yes	5
Golden-winged Warbler	no	0	Bay-breasted Warbler	no*	2
"Brewster's Warbler"	no	1	Blackpoll Warbler	no*	2
"Lawrence's Warbler"	yes	0	Cerulean Warbler	no	0
Tennessee Warbler	yes	1	Black-and-White Warbler	no*	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	yes	3	American Redstart	no*	0
Nashville Warbler	no*	1	Prothonotary Warbler	no	0
Northern Parula	yes	4	Ovenbird	no*	3
Yellow Warbler	yes	3	Northern Waterthrush	no*	4
Chestnut-sided Warbler	yes	1	Louisiana Waterthrush	no	0
Magnolia Warbler	no*	2	Kentucky Warbler	no	1
Cape May Warbler	yes	1	Connecticut Warbler	yes	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	no*	0	Mourning Warbler	no	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	no*	3	Common Yellowthroat	no*	0
Black-throated Green Warbler	no*	3	Hooded Warbler	yes	4
Blackburnian Warbler	no*	3	Wilson's Warbler	no*	4
Pine Warbler	yes	4	Canada Warbler	no*	4
Prairie Warbler	yes	3	Yellow-breasted Chat	no	1

This table must be read with some care as it not only illustrates comparative data, but also a problem that I have with our method of reporting records. It should be clear that the lack of noteworthy reports of birds like American Redstart does not necessarily mean that this species was not seen. It only means that it was not recorded as a "noteworthy record" by observers, recorders, and statisticians. And this may also differ from year to year. Thus, for example, Yellow-rumped Warbler was observed and considered noteworthy for 3 years, not observed or else not considered noteworthy for 3 other years. (All of the species reported "no*" were recorded on individual reports but not in noteworthy records.) What I am suggesting again is that we need some means of publishing records that are comparable from year to year. Despite these serious reservations and although this year's reports were mixed, no year that includes observations of Lawrence's, Orange-crowned, Prairie, and Connecticut Warblers can be discounted.

Pitzrick reports an abundance of wild grapes, gray-barked dogwood and Hawthorne fruits, box elder seeds and wild apples. My own observations while hiking in the Southern Tier confirm this and suggest a very mixed crop of pine cones, some groves producing many cones, others very few. — G. Rising

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
D.-crest. Cormorant	3-25	386 max	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	7	280	Mohawk Is., Ont	D'Anna et al
American Bittern	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson (BOS)
Great Blue Heron	8	107	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Great Egret	2	1	Burgeson WS	Sundell
"	15	4	Iroq. NWR & Tona. WMA	Watson (BOS)
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	22	9	Squaw Is, Bflo	Watson, Galas
<u>Mute Swan</u>	1-29	1	Bird Is Pier, Bflo	Watson, Roberson et al
Green-winged Teal	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	1	6	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
Northern Shoveler	15F, 28	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al
Gadwall	15	5	Iroquois NWR	Watson (BOS)
"	15	1	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
American Wigeon	11	3	Bird Is Pier, Bflo	Roberson
"	15	10	Iroquois NWR	Watson (BOS)
Ring-necked Duck	28F	8	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Greater Scaup	21F	1	Lewiston Resvr	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	8F	9	Lewiston Resvr	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	2	1	Rock Point PP	Andrle et al
Red-br. Merganser	10	1	Bird Is Pier, Bflo	Watson
Osprey	1	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	10	1	Bird Is Pier, Bflo	Watson
"	11	2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	21	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	22	1	Rock Point PP	Watson
Bald Eagle	5	1	Sheridan Twp	Chilton
Northern Harrier	5	1	Franklinville Twp	Holmes
Sharp-sh. Hawk	14	2,3	Morgan's Pt. PP	D'Anna
"	27	1	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
Cooper's Hawk	5-22	5 reports	across region	
Red-shouldered Hawk	17-29	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	28	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Broad-winged Hawk	12	2	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
American Coot	28	174	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Black-bell. Plover	2	67	Moulton Twp, Ont	Andrle et al
*L. Golden-Plover	2F	3	Moulton Twp, Ont	Andrle et al
"	2F	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	D'Anna et al
"	8	1	Lewiston Resvr	D'Anna
"	15	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson (BOS)
"	15, 17	1	Chaut. L., Bemus Cr.	Sundell

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Semipalm. Plover	7,21	11,2	Tifft NP	Holmes, D'Anna et al
Solitary Sandpiper	15	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson (BOS)
Spotted Sandpiper	22	1	Rock Point PP	Watson, Galas
Whimbrel	7	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	D'Anna et al
Red Knot	2,22	9,2	Rock Point PP	Andrle, Watson et al
Baird's Sandpiper	2,14	1,2	Rock Point PP	Andrle, D'Anna et al
Dunlin	22F	3	Rock Point PP	Watson, Galas
Short-b. Dowitcher	15	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson (BOS)
Little Gull	19	1	Bird Is Pier, Bflo	D&D Suggs
<u>L. Black-b. Gull</u>	15	1	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
Gr. Black-b. Gull	30	28	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
Caspian Tern	2	10	Morgan's Pt.-Pt Maitland	Andrle et al
"	22	1	Rock Point PP	Watson, Galas et al
Forster's Tern	7F	1	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
"	7F	2	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	14	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	D'Anna
Yellow-b. Cuckoo	21	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, O'Donnell
Common Nighthawk	2-18	1-21	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
"	6,9	3,4	East Aurora	Holmes
"	22	2	Kenmore	Hess
"	27	200	Peace Bridge	Mueller
Chimney Swift	29	900	Bird Is Pier, Bflo	Watson, O'Bara (BOS)
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	24	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
Red-headed Wdpkr.	11	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	18	1	East Aurora	Holmes, Ruhl
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	18	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	18F	1	East Aurora	Holmes, Ruhl
"	20	1	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
E. Wood-Pewee	25	1	Lewiston Twp	D'Anna
Yellow-b. Flyctchr.	19,24,25L	1,1,1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
Least Flycatcher	22L	1	Rock Point PP	Watson
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	7L	1	Amity Twp	Pitzrick
Eastern Kingbird	2L	1	Moulton Twp, Ont	D'Anna et al
Tree Swallow	29	1	Fort Erie, Ont	D'Anna, O'Bara (BOS)
N. Rough-w. Swallow	28	30	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Bank Swallow	1L	12	Tifft NP	Watson (BOS)
Cliff Swallow	7L	3	Shrebrooke Twp, Ont	D'Anna et al
<u>Common Raven</u>	17	1	Carrollton Twp	Eaton
Tufted Titmouse	1-29	1-4	Amity Lake	Pitzrick, Adams
"	1,7	2,3	Tifft NP	Watson et al
"	11	4	East Aurora	Holmes
"	21	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
Brown Creeper	22F	1	Rock Point PP	Watson, Galas
Carolina Wren	1-24	7 reports	scattered	
Winter Wren	21F	4	Porter, Wilson INWR	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	21F,28	17,6	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
Golden-cr. Kinglet	15	12 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	Watson (BOS)
"	21F	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	21F	4	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
"	21F	2	Wilson-Tusc. SP	D'Anna, O'Donnell
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	10F	1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	20	1	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
Veery	8L	1	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Gray-ch. Thrush	8F,15	1,1	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
Hermit Thrush	21F	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	28	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
American Pipet	11F,16	2,1	Bird Is Pier, Bflo	Roberson, D'Anna
"	21	15	Wilson Twp	D'Anna, O'Donnell
Solitary Vireo	17F	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk.	Holmes
"	19	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	20	2	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
Yellow-thr. Vireo	8L	2,1	Newstead, INWR	Watson, Cohen
Warbling Vireo	21	1	Tifft NP	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	28L	1	Newstead Twp	Watson
Philadelphia Vireo	21	2	Wilson, Porter	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	21	2	Tifft NP, INWR	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	24L	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Blue-winged Warbler	7L	1	Amity Twp	Pitzrick
" <u>Lawrence's Warbler</u> "	7	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Benham
Tennessee Warbler	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson (BOS)
"	29	1	Beaver Is SP	Chilton
Orange-cr. Warbler	18F	1	Iroquois NWR	Potter
"	28	2	Ft Niagara SP	D'Anna
Northern Parula	15F	1	Ft Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	1	Iroquois NWR	Potter, House
"	21	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	22	1	Rock Point PP	Watson, Galas
Yellow Warbler	22L	1	Rock Point PP	Watson, Galas
Chestnut-s. Warbler	28	1	Wilson Twp	D'Anna
Cape May Warbler	9	20	Niagara Falls	Roberson
Pine Warbler	7F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	17	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
"	20	1	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
Prairie Warbler	7	2 PDBA	Amity Twp	Pitzrick
Palm Warbler	13F	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	20	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	22	1	Rock Point PP	Watson
*Connecticut Warbler	11	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Hooded Warbler	17	3	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Holmes
Scarlet Tanager	24	2	East Aurora	Holmes
Rose-b. Grosbeak	29	1	Sheldon	O. Rosche
Vesper Sparrow	2	1	Moulton Twp, Ont	D'Anna et al
Lincoln's Sparrow	18F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	19,23,25	1,1,1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
White-thr. Sparrow	8F	1	Ft Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	16	1	Tonawanda Twp	Hess
Dark-eyed Junco	25F	1	Ft Niagara SP	D'Anna
Bobolink	15	4	Iroquois NWR	Watson (BOS)
Red-wing. Blackbird	18	5000	Hume Twp	Pitzrick
Rusty Blackbird	22F	7	Mud Lake, Ont	Watson, Galas
Northern Oriole	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson (BOS)
"	2L	1	Bertie Twp, Ont	D'Anna et al
Purple Finch	7F	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
"	8	1	Newstead Twp	Watson

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded 256

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	2
Total for year.	258

**1991 U. S. F. & G. Breeding Bird Survey
for Western New York**

by Walter Klabunde

Since 1967, members of and friends of B.O.S. have cooperated annually in this breeding bird survey. Essentially, the procedure (see Prothonotary Vol. 33 No. 15, pp 123-7 [1967] and Vol. 43 No. 10, p. 12 [1968]) involves the recording of all birds seen or heard in three minutes at each of 50 stops a half-mile apart on a defined route by one observer starting a half-hour before sunrise on any day in June. There are 18 routs in Western New York (see Figure I, a map showing the location of the starting point and a rough idea of route for each of the 18 routes). In ten years all routes were covered. One route was missed on each of nine years including this year. Two were missed on five other years. In 1982 when more than four routes were not covered, the survey was eliminated.

The following listing shows the observers and assistants for each route. It was brought to my attention that Nellie Basset, mother of Douglas Basset, has been acting as his assistant, possibly every year he has been an observer.

<u>ROUTE</u>		<u>COOPERATOR</u>	
<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Assistant</u>
045	Phillip's Creek	Elizabeth Brooks	Boris Burton
046	Swain	Elizabeth Brooks	Clarence Klingsmith
052	Mt Morris	Douglas Basset	<u>Nellie Basset</u>
053	Hamburg	William Bogacki	none
054	West Seneca	Joe DiDomenico	Diane DiDomenico
055	Gainesville	Not Covered	
056	Cattaraugus	Timothy Baird	Stephen W. Eaton
057	East Java	Dave Junkin	Marty Junkin
058	Castile	Douglas Basset	<u>Nellie Basset</u>
059	Randolph	Timothy Baird	Stephen W. Eaton
060	Centerville	Wavel Barber	Maxine Barber
061	Sheridan	Terry Mosher	Joe Gula, Jr.
062	Cherry Creek	Robert Sundell	none
063	Nashville	Robert M. Wagner	Edith Wagner
064	St Johnsburg	Sharon Sisti	Roberta McDonald
065	E. Youngstown	Willie D'Anna	Betsy Potter
066	Byron	Dave Keller	none
111	So. Vandalia	Regina VanScoy	James VanScoy

Over the 24 years the total number of species per year has ranged from 107 to 127, with 115 as the median. This year the total was 112 species. This is the fourth year that no new species have been added. The total remains at 168 including one hybrid and five late migrants.

In last year's report it was noted that 77 species have been seen every year. This excluded Alder and Willow Flycatchers which before 1973 were lumped together as Traill's Flycatcher. If we assume both species were present the seven years then the total species seen every year becomes 79.

The total species per route this year varied from 43 to 83 with 60 as the median, while total individuals ranged from 448 to 1535 with a total of 18,149.

Table I shows the species recorded as well as their status in respect to numbers in past years, also the total and

the percentage of routes in which the species were recorded. The following listing shows how the status relates to rank in the 24 years as well as the number of species in each status.

<u>Status</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number</u>
H+	1	11
H	2,&3	21
H-	4,5,&6	15
M+	7,8,9,&10	16
M	10,11,12,13,14,&15	20
M-	16,17,18,&19	9
L+	20,21,&22	8
L	23 7 24	4
L-	25	8

Table I

<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%Rts</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%Rts</u>
Great Blue Heron*	H-	32	82	Winter Wren	H+	3	6
Green-backed Heron	H-	18	47	Marsh Wren	H	6	6
Canada Goose	H+	149	29	Golden-cr. Kinglet	H+	8	35
Wood Duck	M+	8	18	Eastern Bluebird*	H-	19	59
Mallard*	H+	127	65	Veery*	M	45	65
Turkey Vulture	H-	10	35	Wood Thrush*	M	131	100
Northern Harrier	H	10	24	Hermit Thrush	H	10	18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	M+	1	6	American Robin*	M-	1612	100
Red-shouldered Hawk	L+	2	12	Gray Catbird*	M+	203	100
Broad-winged Hawk	H+	5	6	Northern Mockingbird	M+	2	6
Red-tailed Hawk*	H	22	65	Brown Thrasher*	L-	10	41
American Kestrel*	M	19	59	Cedar Waxwing*	H+	270	100
Ring-necked Pheasant*	M-	100	65	European Starling*	H	2512	100
Wild Turkey	M	1	6	Solitary Vireo	H	6	24
Killdeer*	H	211	100	Yellow-throated Vireo*	M+	3	12
Spotted Sandpiper*	L-	1	6	Warbling Vireo*	M+	59	71
Upland Sandpiper	M-	4	6	Red-eyed Vireo*	M-	139	94
American Woodcock	M	1	6	Blue-winged Warbler*	M+	21	47
Ring-billed Gull	H-	377	41	Nashville Warbler	M	1	6
Rock Dove*	H	512	100	Yellow Warbler*	M+	383	100
Mourning Dove*	H-	481	100	Chestnut-s. Warbler*	M	24	47
Black-billed Cuckoo	L-	5	24	Magnolia Warbler*	H+	18	24
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	M+	3	12	Yellow-rumped Warbler	H+	9	24
Great Horned Owl	M	2	12	Bl.-thr. Green Warbler*	M-	18	35
Barred Owl	H	2	12	Blackburnian Warbler*	H	14	24
Chimney Swift*	M	49	71	American Redstart*	M	23	47
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird*	H	8	47	Ovenbird*	H	64	65
Belted Kingfisher*	M+	15	47	Louisiana Waterthrush	H-	1	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	M+	4	18	Mourning Warbler*	L+	8	35
Yel.-bellied Sapsucker	H-	8	18	Common Yellowthroat*	H+	300	94
Downy Woodpecker*	M	26	65	Hooded Warbler	H	9	41
Hairy Woodpecker*	L	1	6	Canada Warbler*	M	4	18
Northern Flicker*	L	27	59	Scarlet Tanager*	M	26	53
Pileated Woodpecker*	H	5	24	Northern Cardinal*	H	161	94

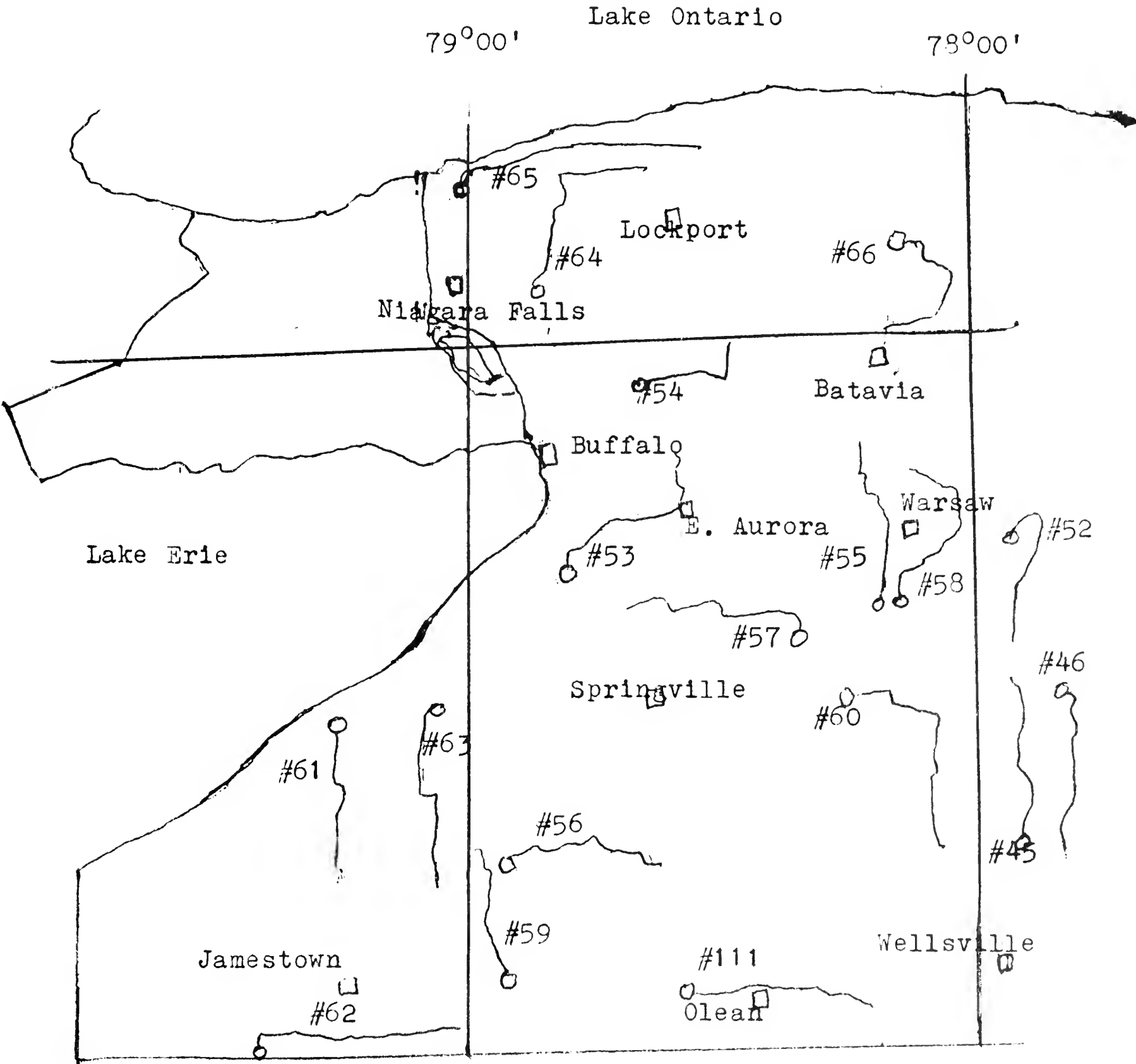
<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%Rts</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%Rts</u>
Eastern Wood Pewee*	L+	34	76	Rose-br. Grosbeak*	M	54	76
Alder Flycatcher	H	25	59	Indigo Bunting*	H-	167	59
Willow Flycatcher*	H	107	65	Rufous-sided Towhee*	L	31	47
Least Flycatcher*	M-	46	82	Chipping Sparrow*	H	444	100
Eastern Phoebe*	M+	50	82	Field Sparrow*	L+	99	94
Great Cr. Flycatcher*	L-	21	65	Vesper Sparrow*	M-	17	24
Eastern Kingbird*	M+	87	94	Savannah Sparrow*	L-	265	100
Horned Lark*	M	47	29	Grasshopper Sparrow*	L-	1	6
Purple Martin*	M	27	35	Song Sparrow*	L-	827	100
Tree Swallow*	H-	79	76	Swamp Sparrow*	H-	28	53
No. Rough-wing Swallow	L+	3	18	Wh.-throated Sparrow	H-	3	6
Bank Swallow*	M	70	35	Dark-eyed Junco*	H-	32	47
Cliff Swallow	H	26	39	Bobolink*	M+	426	94
Barn Swallow*	M+	535	100	Red-winged Blackbird*	L+	1925	100
Blue Jay*	H	156	100	Eastern Meadowlark*	M-	215	100
American Crow*	H	906	100	Common Grackle*	L-	1014	100
Bl.-capped Chickadee*	H	128	100	Brown-headed Cowbird*	M	166	100
Tufted Titmouse	H+	4	18	Northern Oriole*	M-	93	100
Red-br. Nuthatch	H	6	12	Purple Finch*	M	17	41
White-br. Nuthatch	M-	10	29	House Finch	H	269	94
Brown Creeper	H-	2	6	American Goldfinch*	L+	353	100
House Wren*	L+	148	100	House Sparrow*	L	812	94

Table II

<u>Species</u>	<u>Years Above</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Years Below</u>
<u>Increasing</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Decreasing</u>	<u>Median</u>
Great Blue Heron	11	Northern Flicker	7
Turkey Vulture	8	Brown Thrasher	10
Canada Goose	9	Red-eyed Vireo	7
Northern Harrier	7	Rufous-sided Towhee	8
Rock Dove	9	Field Sparrow	8
Mourning Dove	12	Savannah Sparrow	13
Red-bellied Woodpecker	11	Grasshopper Sparrow	8
Tree Swallow	7	Henslow's Sparrow	8
Blue Jay	10	Red-winged Blackbird	13
American Crow	9	Eastern Meadowlark	11
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	Northern Oriole	7
Eastern Bluebird	8	House Sparrow	7
Cedar Waxwing	7		
Hooded Warbler	7		
Northern Cardinal	10		
Chipping Sparrow	12		
Dark-eyed Junco	10		
House Finch	11		

Besides being on the decreasing list it was interesting to note that this was the first year that House Sparrow was missing on ones route's summary for the first time in 25 years.

FIGURE I
Breeding Bird Routes in Western New York



Tifft Field Trip

September 1st was a pleasant day with clear skies. Although this good migration weather resulted in few migrant individuals, many migrant species were present.

On Mosquito Junction Boardwalk we saw and heard a Carolina Wren and observed the first of two Tufted Titmouse and a Tennessee Warbler. On Old Tifft Street several field trip members were startled as an American Woodcock flew only a few feet over their heads! It was here we had our first good group of warblers, adding Yellow-rumped, Yellow, Black-throated Green and Cape May Warblers plus American Redstart to our list.

Later, off the Service Road, Nashville, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Blue Warblers and a handsome Great-crested Flycatcher were seen by some participants. An American Bittern, Swamp Sparrow and Marsh Wren were found by Mike Galas at Heritage Boardwalk. At Lisa Pond we enjoyed watching Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Least Sandpiper, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, a dozen Wood Duck and Black-crowned Night-Heron.

The field trip concluded at Times Beach with two Greater Yellowlegs, a Lesser Yellowlegs, eleven Double-crested Cormorants and two Mergansers. The trip produced a total of 68 species with eleven species of warblers and six species of shorebirds (when we include the American Woodcock and Killdeer).

Bill Watson

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip

September 15th was plagued by thunder showers for the first two hours, and the 15 participants of the field trip saw only 14 species of birds. The most impressive of these was a male Northern Harrier at the Clarence Turf Farm and count of 28 Pied-billed Grebes at Wood Marsh on the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area. As the weather gradually improved so did the bird watching. A check of 6 of 8 of the B.O.S. funded planting areas yielded a plethora of American Goldfinches and Song Sparrows, as well as one Swamp Sparrow. Also on the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area we saw a Green-backed Heron, Northern Pintail and first two of four Great Egrets!

At Cayuga Pool we were studying Red-tailed Hawks, Tree Swallows and Northern Rough-winged Swallows when we were surprised by about a half-dozen Bobolink. On the Oak Orchard Wildlife Management Area side of Knowlesville Road we found a good group of shorebirds including two Lesser Yellowlegs, two Solitary Sandpipers, four Pectoral Sandpipers and a Common Snipe which was first identified by John Welte. It was here Don Roberson pointed out our first pair of American Black Ducks. A walk on Swallow Hollow trail produced Turkey Vultures, White-breasted Nuthatch, breeding Golden-crowned Kinglets (12) and Brown Creeper (1), a strange looking Eastern Wood Pewee and our only warbler, a Black-throated Green Warbler.

At Stafford Pond, we found our first Black-bellied Plover and an additional Pectoral Sandpiper. Returning to Iroquois NWR, we observed many ducks and shorebirds from Mallard Overlook at Ring-neck Marsh. Here we looked at five Gadwall, ten American Wigeon, a second Northern Pintail and two Northern Shoveler, giving us a total of 8 species of duck. On the far shore Bob Brock called my attention to a group of shorebirds which contained the best birds of the day - two Lesser Golden Plovers. A feeding Black-bellied Plover and Killdeer offered an interesting contrast. Lesser Golden Plover are classified as rare birds at Iroquois during the late summer and fall.

At Center Marsh we saw our ninth shorebird species, a Short-billed Dowitcher which looked like it was nearly trampled by Canada Geese. At the end of the trip we had a total of 56 species which when totaled with the Tifft trip (which I also led) produced a combined total of 90 species.

Bill Watson

BOS Bird Island Pier Field Trip

A trip on the Bird Island Pier on September 29, 1991 was attended by 17 members and guests of the B.O.S. By far the most numerous species was Chimney Swift, with an estimated 900 seen along the pier. A Tree Swallow was spotted among the swifts as well. Twenty species were seen. Shorebirds were conspicuously absent with only Sanderling seen. The Mute Swan was viewed at close range in the marshy area at the end of the pier as was an American Coot. One Great Black-backed Gull was spotted at the mouth of the river.

This first-time leader wishes to thank all the excellent birders on the trip who assisted in finding birds on a day when they were not easy to find.

Marcia O'Bara

Buffalo Ornithological Society Officers for 1991-1992

President: Joe DiDomenico
Vice President: Mike Galas
Treasurer: Jane Heyer
Rec. Secretary: Barbara Walker
Corr. Secretary: Diane Chrisman
Lib./Res. Custodian: Audrey Horbett
Statisticians: Robert Andrie
Frances Rew

BOS Council - Term expiring 1994:
Gerry Rising, Dick Collins
Betsy Potter

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please note the following address change:

Gertrude G. Webster
Hamburg Health Care Center
5775 Maelou Dr.
Hamburg, NY 14075
Tel. 648-2820

Welcome to the following Associate Members:

Mrs. Mary Giles
16 Linden Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14214
Tel. 838-1337

Miss Shirley Landsittel
4652 Wilson Dr.
Hamburg, NY 14075
Tel. 649-3771

Mrs. Karen Maile
47 Mona Court
Depew, NY 14043
tel. 684-7640

Miss Leane Schultz
16 Creekward Dr.
West Seneca, NY 14224
Tel. 674-2835

BOS MEETINGS

- Nov. 13: Dr. Andrie and Don Roberson will treat us with a special program on the Yucatan.
- Nov. 20:** Kenn Kaufman will speak, his program: "Owl in a Day's Work". This is not a regular BOS meeting night, however, this special event is being co-sponsored by BOS.
- Dec. 11: Annual Holiday Gathering. Attend and bring a snack to share following the meeting.
- Jan. 8: Joint meeting with Buffalo Audubon Society, the program will feature Mary Ellen Foley, Canadian Rehab, Center.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

NOTICE: Cancellations due to weather conditions will be aired on the following radio stations: WGR 550 and WBEN 970.

FIELD TRIPS

- Nov. 17: Sunday. Niagara River for Gulls and waterfowl. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 9:30 am at Old Fort Niagara in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS & Bob Brock (876-5862).
- Dec. 1: Sunday. Buffalo waterfront and Niagara River. Meet at 8:00 am at the Vermont & Busti entrance to the Peace Bridge.
- Dec. 15: Sunday. BOS Christmas bird count.

- Dec. 21: Saturday. Audubon Chestnut Ridge Christmas Count. Compiler: Paul Lazarus (633-4185).
- Dec. 22: Sunday. Niagara Falls, Ontario-NY Christmas bird count. Compiler: Kay's Roy (Ont) & Willie D'Anna (NY).
- Dec. 28: Saturday. Beaver Meadow Christmas Count. Compiler: Dave Junkin (457-3228).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

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November 1991

Number 11

THE MONTH: October 1991

Although this pleasant October was a near average month in temperature and precipitation, it had some unusual features. The temperature average was 53.1°, 1.5° above normal. Record highs were set on the 23rd when 77° broke the old record by 1° and the 26th when the same temperature beat the old record by 4°. As the chart shows, minimum temperatures during that 3 day period were also high and within a degree or two of records. The chart also demonstrates the usual up and down character of October temperature.

Precipitation for the month was also above average, its 3.1 inches up 0.2 inches from normal. This figure is misleading because 2.7 of those inches fell before the 13th, 0.4 inches in the last 19 days.

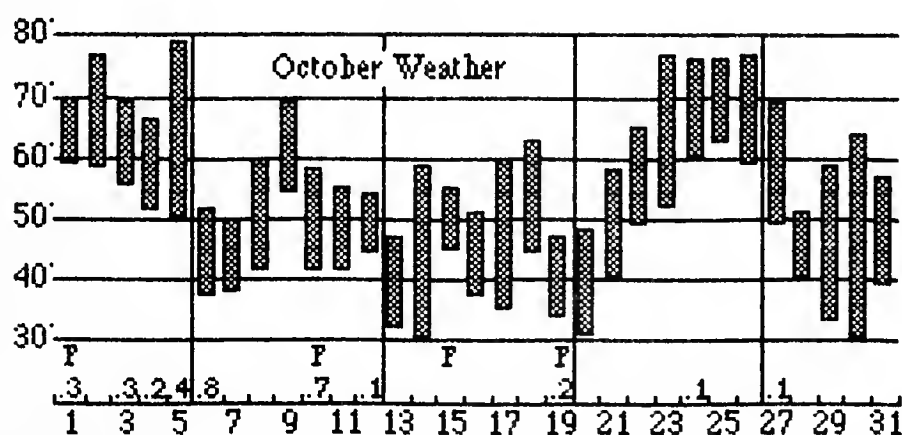
Strong thunderstorms occurred on the 4th and 6th. In the middle of the storm on the 4th the earliest measurable snowfall in Buffalo Weather Bureau history fell: 0.2 inches. (As a reader of my NEWS column pointed out when I mentioned this, snow fell in an earlier year on this date: a trace of snow was measured

in Buffalo in 1952 and 1978. He had seen several inches near Holland in 1952.) Farther to the south in the snow belt this year's October 6 snow measured nearer an inch.

None of this information tells the true story of this delightful month which produced one of the most spectacular and long lasting leaf color displays in the history of this region. This represents a mixed blessing for birders: lovely days but, like last spring, many many leaves to hide the birds. Let us see then what effect this weather had on birding.

The second October Red-throated Loon in 6 years was recorded on the 26th. In 1987 there was an October 23 record. The count of 433 Common Loons on the 26th

was at least a six year high, the best recent record 200 on October 28, 1989. The 2 Red-necked Grebes on the 19th were earliest since October 16, 1988, but the year before that, one was recorded on the 2nd. As noted in the October (14th) Count report, Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase. The 563 loons, grebes, and cormorants on the Count were at a 10 year high, above last year's next best by 20%.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 5th was a Saturday, the 6th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

Heron numbers (156) on the Count were slightly above average for the decade.

For the first time in 6 years no Tundra Swans were reported in this month. The 1700 Brant along Lake Ontario on the 22nd is the best count in 6 years with 20 (!) the prior recent best, but our failure to record these flights may be due to poor coverage of this shoreline at the time of their flights. Ruddy Duck numbers continue high. Totals for waterfowl on the Count remained near last year's 10 year high.

The 10 accipiter reports for the month is a 6 year high with a Northern Goshawk on the Count for the 2nd year in a row after an October "absence" of 4 years. The 2 Broad-winged Hawks on the Count were latest in 6 years, the only other October record in that time period a single bird recorded October 8, 1989. Good Count numbers of Red-tailed Hawks and Kestrels helped drive the raptor total (811) to a decade high by 25%. The total species of hawks and owls (16) was also at a 10 year high.

The imbalance in game bird numbers was extended on this year's Count with 5 times as many Wild Turkeys (204) as Ruffed Grouse and pheasants together. Despite this the Count number of game and marsh birds was somewhat below average.

Shorebird numbers (808) on the Count were at a 10 year minimum, down 10% below the next worst count in the decade. Best shorebird record for the month was the Baird's Sandpiper on the 27th, this species not reported in October since 1987.

Little Gulls appeared early in the month together with 2 Sabine's Gulls but all then disappeared. The only Forster's Tern report was a few days later. But overall gull and tern numbers were only slightly above average on the Count, partly reduced by the lowest Bonaparte's Gull count (700) in 10 years.

The Common Nighthawk on the 2nd is one of only 3 October records in 6 years. The others were on October 2, 1989 and October 12, 1986. No Chimney Swifts after the 10 on the 5th. (Did they get out to beat the bad weather of the 6th?)

Woodpeckers (406) were 15% below the 10 year average on the Count with the 56 flycatchers 36% above. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was recorded on the 2nd. Swallows (9) were at a decade low, but there were only 10 in 1984. Crow numbers continue to build as they seek out new urban and suburban territories. Tit numbers (3652) were well above average on the Count, beating the 10 year average by 24%.

Overall Count thrush numbers (2718) were at a decade minimum, 20% below the previous low. This was due to a low count of American Robins as there was a good flight of Hermit Thrushes on the Count day. Mimic thrush and vireo numbers were also well below average.

It is pleasant to note that the total number of warblers on the Count (928) was above average for the decade, although they were down 36% from last year's decade high. The following table shows October last record dates for warblers that usually depart in this month or in early November. For comparison, the DG column gives Date Guide departure dates and the 86-90 column the latest dates for each year in that 5 year period.

<u>S P E C I E S</u>	<u>D G</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>86 - 90</u>	<u>S P E C I E S</u>	<u>D G</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>86 - 90</u>
Tennessee Warbler	22	11	2,12,16,-,14	Bay-breasted Warbler	21	13	12,12,-,8,-
Orange-crowned Warbler	N 6	13	17,12,12,18,14	Blackpoll Warbler	21	13	-,12,5,8,-
Nashville Warbler	21	15	19,12,9,14,14	Blk-and-wh Warbler	28	13	-,12,-,-,14
Northern Parula	17	—	5,12,-,7,-	American Redstart	27	13	-,12,-,8,14
Chestnut-sided Warbler	17	13	12,12,16,8,25	Ovenbird	15	11	12,12,16,14,-
Magnolia Warbler	24	15	12,12,16,21,14	Northern Waterthrush	18	—	-,,-,-,-,-
Cape May Warbler	20	13	12,12,8,-,14	Connecticut Warbler	12	—	-,,-,9,8,-
Black-thr Blue Warbler	24	13	12,12,16,17,14	Mourning Warbler	1	—	-,,-,-,-,-
Black-thr Green Warbler	N 2	13	12,12,16,14,16	Hooded Warbler	3	—	5,3,-,-,-
Blackburnian Warbler	14	—	-,12,-,8,-	Wilson's Warbler	16	5	12,12,-,8,14
Pine Warbler,	14	13	5,12,30,-,14	Canada Warbler	12	—	12,-,-,-,-
Palm Warbler	N 13	13	18,12,16,18,14				

Sparrow Count totals (4689) were above the 10 year average with the Harris' Sparrow competing for bird of the month with the Dickcissel on the 6th and the LeConte's Sparrow on the 10th. Blackbird totals were also above average and finch totals almost exactly at average. It is good to note the arrival of a few Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks. — G. Rising

Literature cited

Andrle, Robert F., et al., eds. *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York & Adjacent Ontario* Sixth Edition. Buffalo, Buffalo Ornithological Society, 1991.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-throated Loon	26F	1,1	Somerset, Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
Common Loon	14	2	Lake Erie SP	Flory
"	19	77	Shadigee	D'Anna
"	22	126	Wilson to Yates	Roberson
"	26	338,95	Somerset, Yates	D'Anna (BOS)
Horned Grebe	5F	2	Lewiston Reservoir.	D'Anna
"	22	12	Lake Ontario, NY	Roberson
"	22	3	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Mueller (EABC)
Red-necked Grebe	19F	2	Shadigee	D'Anna
D.-crest. Cormorant	7,20	277,104	Niagara Falls	Watson
Great Egret	20L	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Bl.-cr. Night-heron	22	1	Squaw Is., Bflo	D'Anna
<u>Mute Swan</u>	14,22	1	LaSalle Pk., Bflo	Watson, Mueller et al
Snow Goose	5	1	Pomfret Twp	Flory
"	6,20	4,8	Iroquois NWR (probable)	D&D Suggs
"	22	7	Iroquois NWR (escapes)	Roberson
Brant	19	40	Shadigee	D'Anna
"	22	1700	Wilson to Yates	Roberson
"	31	5	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
Northern Pintail	6	25	Iroquois NWR	D&D Suggs
Blue-winged Teal	20	4	Tifft NP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	6	11	Iroquois NWR	D&D Suggs
"	30	16	Iroquois NWR	Rew, Dornhaffer
Gadwall	6	32	Iroquois NWR	D&D Suggs
"	7,20	10,47	Niagara Falls	Watson
American Wigeon	6	275	Iroquois NWR	D&D Suggs
Canvasback	16,20	36,42	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Watson
Redhead	16,20	2,6	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Watson
Ring-necked Duck	5	3	Lewiston Reservoir	D'Anna
"	28	6	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Greater Scaup	20	300(est.)	Niagara Falls	Watson
Lesser Scaup	22	194	Lewiston Twp.	Roberson
"	22	690	Wilson to Yates	Roberson
Black Scoter	18	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
Surf Scoter	22F	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Mueller(EABC)
White-winged Scoter	19	69	Shadigee	D'Anna
"	22	1,3	Wilson, Yates	Roberson
Scoter species	19	5	Shadigee	D'Anna
Common Goldeneye	19	9	Shadigee	D'Anna
"	20	16	Niagara Falls	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Bufflehead	19	2	Shadigee	D'Anna
"	20	2	Buckhorn Is. SP	D&D Suggs
Hooded Merganser	20-27	17-34	Iroquois NWR	Many observers
Common Merganser	11F	3	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
"	22	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Mueller (EABC)
Red-br. Merganser	19	26	Shadigee	D'Anna
"	27	8	Lake Erie SP	Flory
Ruddy Duck	20F,21	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick, Adams
"	22	74	Celoron	Sundell
"	27,31	24,53	Mayville	Flory, Sundell
Turkey Vulture	20	5	Iroquois NWR	D&D Suggs
Osprey	2	2	Tonawanda WMA	Holmes (EABC)
"	4,21,27	1,1,1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	6,20	1,1	Buckhorn Is. SP	D&D Suggs
"	27L	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Potter
Bald Eagle	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Holmes
"	30	1 adult	Iroquois NWR	Rew, Dornhaffer
Sharp-sh. Hawk	1-24	8 reports	throughout WNY	
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	Allegany SP	Watson
"	2	1	Tonawanda WMA	Holmes(EABC)
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	1	Carrollton Twp.	Eaton
"	8-29	1-2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	29	1	Sheridan Twp.	Budniewski
Rough-legged Hawk	19	2	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Chilton
"	20	2	Charlotte Twp.	Rew, Buck
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	5	1	Buffalo	D'Anna
"	6	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	D'Anna et al
American Coot	22	152	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
"	27,31	200,225	Mayville	Flory, Sundell
Black-bellied Plover	2,11	1,1	Sunset Bay	Flory
"	14	18	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	Watson
"	30	1	Iroquois NWR	Rew, Dornhaffer
Lesser Golden-Plover	26	10	Yates Twp.	D'Anna(BOS)
Semipalmated Plover	2	2	Allegany SP	Watson
Greater Yellowlegs	30	8	Iroquois NWR	Rew, Dornhaffer
Lesser Yellowlegs	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
Baird's Sandpiper	27L	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	17	Allegany SP	Watson
"	30	2	Fredonia	Chilton
Dunlin	2	3	Iroquois NWR	Holmes(EABC)
"	27	130,11	Tona. WMA,Iroq. NWR	D'Anna, Potter
Short-b. Dowitcher	6L	5	Tonawanda WMA	D&D Suggs
Common Snipe	18,28	1,1	East Aurora	Holmes
Little Gull	6	6	Buffalo	D'Anna et al
"	7	6	Fort Erie, Ont.	Bellerby
"	8	3	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Rising
*Sabine's Gull	6F	2	Buffalo	D'Anna et al
"	7	1	Buffalo-Ft. Erie	Watson, Bellerby
Forster's Tern	12	4	Squaw Is., Bflo.	Mueller
Black Tern	6	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	8	3	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Rising
Common Nighthawk	2L	1	Fredonia	S. Clarke
Chimney Swift	5L	10	Buffalo	D'Anna

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	8,18	1,1	East Aurora	Holmes
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	31	1	Lake Erie SP	Flory
*Olive-s. Flycatcher	2L	1	Allegany SP	Watson, Nielsen
Eastern Wood-Pewee	10	1	Buckhorn Is. SP	Roberson
Eastern Phoebe	23	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Tree Swallow	6	10	Iroquois NWR	D&D Suggs
Tufted Titmouse	5	5	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
"	24	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	24	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	26	5	Fort Niagara SP	Benham
"	26,30	2	Niagara Falls(f)	Roberson
"	28,29,31	2	Sheridan Twp.	R&C Budniewski
Carolina Wren	1-31	1	Eden Twp.	Andrle
"	6,23	1,1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	11	2	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
"	11	3	Erie & Waverly Beach	Andrle, Roberson
"	20,27	1,3	Tifft NP	Watson et al
"	26	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
"	28	1	Lake Erie SP	Flory
House Wren	2L	1	Allegany SP	Watson
Eastern Bluebird	31	21	Perrysburg Twp.	Chilton
Swainson's Thrush	11	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
"	11	1	Waverly Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Roberson
Hermit Thrush	11	14	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	20	22	Tifft NP	Watson
Wood Thrush	7	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Gray Catbird	26L	1	Golden Hill SP	Watson et al
"	31	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Mockingbird	11	1	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
"	26	1	Yates Twp.	D'Anna(BOS)
Brown Thrasher	11	2	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
American Pipit	26	140	Yates Twp.	D'Anna(BOS)
Northern Shrike	20F	1	Wilson Twp.	D'Anna
"	26	2,1	Somerset, Yates	D'Anna(BOS)
Solitary Vireo	18L	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Red-eyed Vireo	17L	1	Wales Twp.	O. Rosche
Tennessee Warbler	11L	1	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
Nashville Warbler	15L	1 window kill	Buffalo	D'Anna
Magnolia Warbler	15L	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Bl.-thr. Bl. Warbler	11	2	Crescent Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Roberson
Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	11	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	11L	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
Pine Warbler	10	1	Buckhorn Is. SP	Roberson
Palm Warbler	2	1	Allegany SP	Watson
Bl.-and-w. Warbler	11	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
American Redstart	5	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Ovenbird	11L	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Common Yellowthroat	23	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Wilson's Warbler	5L	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Indigo Bunting	7L	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
*Dickcissel	6	1	Orchard Park(f)	Miller
Rufous-s. Towhee	26	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
"	27L	1	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Amer. Tree Sparrow	20	3	Buckhorn Is. SP	D&D Suggs
"	20	1	Wales(f)	O. Rosche
"	26	1	Golden Hill SP	Potter
Field Sparrow	30L	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Savannah Sparrow	4	1	Farmersville	Rising
* <u>Le Conte's Sparrow</u>	10	1	Hanover Twp.	J&T Goetz
Fox Sparrow	20	2	Niagara Falls	Roberson
"	24	8	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	26	2	Golden Hills SP	D'Anna(BOS)
"	29	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	29	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Lincoln's Sparrow	5	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	D'Anna
"	12	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
White-cr. Sparrow	5F	3	Lewiston Reservoir	D'Anna
"	6	5	Buckhorn Is. SP	D&D Suggs
"	6	1	Eden Twp.	Andrle
Dark-eyed Junco	6	2	Buckhorn Is. SP	D&D Suggs
Snow Bunting	20F	3	Wilson Twp.	D'Anna
"	31	18	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
"	31	11	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Benham
Rusty Blackbird	2	20	Tonawanda WMA	Holmes (EABC)
"	27	157	Grand Island	Watson et al
Pine Siskin	11F	6	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
"	19	4	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
American Goldfinch	26	110	Fort Niagara SP	Benham
Evening Grosbeak	30	2	Ward Twp.	Brooks

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	258
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	7
Total for year.	265

ERRATA

In the *Prothonotary*, Vol. 57 No. 10, p. 116 in "Noteworthy Records":

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Nighthawk	27	200	Peace Bridge	Mueller
Should be:				
<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Chimney Swift	27	200	Peace Bridge	Mueller

Report of the B.O.S. 56th Annual October Bird Count

Date: October 13, 1991

Compilers: Mike Galas, Gerry Rising

Weather: The 13th was colder than normal for this time of year — temperature averaging 13° below normal for the day — but, despite this, it was not an unpleasant day. The low was 32° and the high 40°. A trace of rain was detected by the Buffalo Weather Bureau between 7 and 10 a.m., but over 3 hours of sun were recorded later in the day. Winds were mild, averaging 7 mph, and from the north. No special weather patterns are noted: the most recent cold front having passed through the region on the 10th.

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

L o o n s - D u c k s

Common Loon	90		American Wigeon	277		
Pied-billed Grebe	83		Canvasback	2	F	(13)
Horned Grebe	87		Redhead	77	F	(13,20,21)
Double-crested Cormorant	303		Ring-necked Duck	221		
American Bittern	1	(5)	Greater Scaup	695		
Great Blue Heron	150		Lesser Scaup	3505		
Great Egret	1	(11)	unspecified scaup	192		
Green-backed Heron	4		Oldsquaw	1		(7)
Brant	9	* F (5)	Black Scoter	6	* F	(3)
Canada Goose	21084		White-winged Scoter	79	F	
Wood Duck	333		unspecified scoters	30		
Green-winged Teal	114		Common Goldeneye	1	F	(3)
American Black Duck	222		Bufflehead	2	F	(8)
Mallard	6140		Hooded Merganser	18		
"Mallard x Black Duck"	1		Common Merganser	153		
Northern Pintail	32		Red-breasted Merganser	71		
Blue-winged Teal	16		Ruddy Duck	100		
Northern Shoveler	28	(5,13)	unspecified waterfowl	385		
Gadwall	86					

V u l t u r e s - C o o t s

Turkey Vulture	150		Rough-legged Hawk	1	F	(6)
Osprey	6		unspecified buteos	3		
Bald Eagle	3	(10,20)	American Kestrel	151		
Northern Harrier	65		Merlin	1		(3)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	89		unspecified hawks	2		
Cooper's Hawk	25		Ring-necked Pheasant	27		
Northern Goshawk	1	(5)	Ruffed Grouse	13		
unspecified accipiters	1		Wild Turkey	204		
Red-shouldered Hawk	6		Common Moorhen	6		(10,13)
Broad-winged Hawk	2	(8)	American Coot	422		
Red-tailed Hawk	281					

P l o v e r s - T e r n s

Black-bellied Plover	17	(7,8)	Common Snipe	3	(20,21,22)
Lesser Golden-Plover	27	(5)	American Woodcock	3	(14,19)
Semipalmated Plover	2	(8)	unspecified shorebirds	1	
Killdeer	677		Bonaparte's Gull	700	
Greater Yellowlegs	43		Ring-billed Gull	18789	
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	(7,13,20)	Herring Gull	1027	
Spotted Sandpiper	2	(5,13)	Great Black-backed Gull	143	
Sanderling	12	(7)	unspecified gulls	400	(2)
White-rumped Sandpiper	1	(8)	Common Tern	20	(8,11)
Pectoral Sandpiper	15		Forster's Tern	1	(8)
Dunlin	2	(8)			

D o v e s - S w a l l o w s

Rock Dove	3676		Downy Woodpecker	191	
Mourning Dove	1936		Hairy Woodpecker	40	
Eastern Screech-Owl	9		Northern Flicker	138	
Great Horned Owl	14		Pileated Woodpecker	15	
Barred Owl	1	(20)	Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	L (8,11,20)
Belted Kingfisher	47		Eastern Phoebe	53	
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	(3,10,20)	Horned Lark	86	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	13		Tree Swallow	9	L (7,13,20)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	6				

J a y s - S t a r l i n g s

Blue Jay	1374		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	668	
American Crow	4028		Eastern Bluebird	174	
Black-capped Chickadee	1384		Swainson's Thrush	11	
Tufted Titmouse	35		Hermit Thrush	121	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	68		Wood Thrush	3	L (5,7,12)
White-breasted Nuthatch	146		American Robin	2409	
Brown Creeper	108		Gray Catbird	19	
Carolina Wren	17		Northern Mockingbird	25	
House Wren	7	L	American Pipit	196	
Winter Wren	93		Cedar Waxwing	1167	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1126		European Starling	39136	

V i r e o s - W a r b l e r s

Solitary Vireo	1	(16)	Black-throated Green Warbler	3	L (6,22)
Red-eyed Vireo	2	(3,17)	Pine Warbler	1	L (9)
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	(3)	Palm Warbler	2	(21)
Nashville Warbler	1	(2)	Bay-breasted Warbler	1	L (10)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	(11)	Blackpoll Warbler	1	L (3)
Magnolia Warbler	9		Black-and-white Warbler	1	L (28)
Cape May Warbler	4	(20)	American Redstart	1	L (11)
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	L (8,10)	Common Yellowthroat	4	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	874		unspecified warblers	22	

C a r d i n a l s - H o u s e S p a r r o w s

Northern Cardinal	235			Harris' Sparrow	1	*	(8)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1		(15)	Dark-eyed Junco	1498		
Indigo Bunting	1	L	(21)	Lapland Longspur	5		(3)
Rufous-sided Towhee	24			Red-winged Blackbird	27068		
American Tree Sparrow	15	F	(16,20,28)	Eastern Meadowlark	101		
Chipping Sparrow	315			Rusty Blackbird	2233		
Field Sparrow	95			Common Grackle	3609		
Vesper Sparrow	10		(3,6,19)	Brown-headed Cowbird	3473		
Savannah Sparrow	15	L		Purple Finch	150		
Fox Sparrow	5	F		House Finch	1756		
Song Sparrow	812			Pine Siskin	51		
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	L	(2,20,28)	American Goldfinch	724		
Swamp Sparrow	60			Evening Grosbeak	1		(28)
White-throated Sparrow	1166			House Sparrow	2680		
White-crowned Sparrow	665			unspecified birds	1		

Summary Information -

Total Species Observed - 155

Total Individual Birds Observed - 164,206

Comparisons - As compared with October Bird Counts dating back to 1935 (no count was recorded in 1951) and with counts for the decade 1981-1990, the following results are highlighted. Note that unspecified comparisons are with all previous counts.

Loons - Ducks - Common Loon 90, replaces last year's 74 as 4th best, the previous year's 208 the record high. Double-crested Cormorant 303, replaces last year's 202 as record high, previous high 77 in 1983. Great Blue Heron 150, down slightly from the highs of 187 and 178 in the two previous years. **Brant** 9, first record since 105 in 1977. Canada Goose 21084, high replacing the only other 5 figure counts, 15237 in 1988 and 10468 last year. Green-winged Teal 114, decade maximum. Northern Shoveler 28, maximum since 33 in 1981. Gadwall 86, high with previous record 82 in 1976. Common Merganser 153, high, previous high 119 in 1979. Ruddy Duck 100, high since 109 in 1977, but before that there were counts of 721 and 428 in 1949 and 1950. Overall waterfowl numbers continue high in contrast to serious declines in other parts of the country.

Raptors - Rails - Turkey Vulture 150, third highest to last year's record high 186 and 152 the previous year. Northern Harrier 65, maximum with previous high 64 in 1987. Sharp-shinned Hawk 89, high beating the previous high of 35 in 1985. Cooper's Hawk 25, high breaking last year's 22. Northern Goshawk 1, 6th record, 3rd in decade. American Kestrel 151, high beating 133 in 1989. Merlin 1, 3rd in decade, reported about 3 times each decade for the entire count history. Overall hawk numbers at record high. Ruffed Grouse 13, decade low. Wild Turkey 204, high beating 166 in 1983. Game and marsh birds are maintaining numbers about 30% of those in the 1950s.

Plovers - Terns - Lesser Yellowlegs 4, decade low. Pectoral Sandpiper 15, decade low. Common Snipe 3, one more than last year's decade low. American Woodcock 3 ties for decade low with 1987. Overall shorebird numbers show 10% decline from the 1970s. Bonaparte's Gull 700, low since 662 in 1976. Forster's Tern 1, seen only 3 times in decade. It is hard to believe but gull numbers seem to be generally declining from highs in the mid-80s.

Doves - Swallows - Woodpeckers somewhat below and flycatchers above decade averages. Tree Swallow 9, only one of two counts less than 100 since 1977 when there were 96; the other poor count 6 in 1984.

Jays – Starlings – American Crow 4028, high with previous high 3927 in 1982. Black-capped Chickadee 1384, the decade low. Tufted Titmouse 35, maximum with previous best 30 in 1977 and 1985. White-breasted Nuthatch 146, decade low. Brown Creeper 108, decade high but well below 273 in 1970. Carolina Wren 17, high with 15 previous high in 1976. Winter Wren 93, high with previous record 66 in 1970. Hermit Thrush 121, only surpassed in the decade by 122 in 1989, both well above decade average of 55. American Robin 2409, decade low and low since 2127 in 1977. No Brown Thrashers, reported in 7 previous years; compare average of 9 birds per year in the 1960s and 1970s.

Vireos – Warblers – Solitary Vireo 1, low for decade with 1 reported in 1980, but before that more since 1962.

Cardinals – House Sparrows – Northern Cardinal 235, low for decade, but 184 in 1980. Indigo Bunting 1, second decade record: 3 were seen in 1986. Harris' Sparrow 1, first record. Rusty Blackbird 2233, maximum since 2396 in 1974; 7000 the only still higher count in 1935, the first count year. American Goldfinch 724, low since 717 in 1962.

Sections and Observers: Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: **David Cooper**, Kayo Roy
2. Thorold, ON: Kathy Collins, **Richard Collins**, Mike Galas, Gerry Rising
3. Wilson, NY: **Willie D'Anna**, Harriette Klabunde, Walter Klabunde, Betsy Potter
4. Middleport, NY: **Robert Brock**, William Watson
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, **Dick Christensen**, Peggy Christensen, Morgan Jones, Gail Seamans, Marion Smith
6. Port Maitland, ON: Jerry Chapple, Aline Novosel, **Gary Novosel**
7. Lowbanks, ON: Robert Andrie, **Joseph Thill**
8. Fort Erie, ON: Jane Heyer, Alec Humann, Alice McKale, **Ellen Schopp**, Margaret Stewart
9. Grand Island, NY: **Karen Renning**
10. Akron, NY: Ed Crohn, Tom Insalaco, **Don Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeir, Paul Ziebart, Virginia Ziebart
11. Buffalo, NY: Charles Halvorsen, Margorie Harwitz, Bruce Johnson, Bobbi McDonald, **Sharon Sisti**
12. Lancaster, NY: Ann Bauer, Dorothy Danner, Ray Frantz, **Tom Harper**, Linda Holmes, Joseph Lesser, Donna Wicand, Cy Wolfling
13. Batavia, NY: **Dave Keller**, Marie Keller, George Mahaney, Jane Mason, Max Mason, Marge Pixley, Gail Seamans
14. Hamburg, NY: Lois Abbott, Ernie Baker, Barbara Brandes, Kenneth Brandes, Grace Clark, Marian Dornhaffer, Douglas Happ, Adelede Hunley, Mark Laible, Lucille Leonard, Robert Leonard, Eugene Longbine, Helene Longbine, Evelyn Mauser, Sue Saunders, Mary Saville, Audrey Segebarth, **Barbara Walker**, Betty Wilson, Michael Zebehazy
15. Java, NY: **Bill Bogacki**, Dave Junkin, Art Rosche, Olga Rosche
16. Angola, NY: Lois Buck, Gil Lange, Mary Lange, **Frances Rew**
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **Maxine Barber**, **Wavel Barber**, Laura Leman, Karen Malie, Victoria Onorato
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**
19. Fillmore, NY: Ron Andrews, Faye Clancy, Alice Evans, Elaine Herdman, Lyle Hotchkiss, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lang, Edna Marvin, Melissa Mills, Andy Mullen, James Mullen, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Nicholson, **Katherine Palmer**, Jean Perry, Elaine Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Emmette Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Wilson, Larry Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilson
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: David Bryant, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Sylvia Clarke, Ethan Cole, Richard Cole, Jeanine Flory, Joanne Goetz, Joe Gula, Sr., Greg Harper, Terry Mahoney, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Marty Sanden, Audrey Schafer, **K. M. Souter**, Doris Welch, Tom Welch

21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: John Cheney, Barbara Davis, Julie Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Tom Madison, Jessie Nelson, Jean Pigman, Carol Roby, Travis Suckow, **Bob Sundell**, Carol Wagner, Sally Whetstein
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Ranjit Laha, Tom Madison, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Ranjit Laha, Jean Pigman, **Bob Sundell**
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Arlene Bordonaro, Lucille Bordonaro, Alene Church, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy
26. Cuba, NY: **Doris Burton**, Gino Pizza, Norma Pizza, Ann Scott, Morris Scott
27. Bolivar, NY: Margaret Barnett, **Doris Burton**, Jeff Holbrook, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Robert James, Emma Lou King, Helen Link, Lillian Simons
28. Alfred, NY: Mallery Adams, Mary Adams, Riley Allen, Dorothy Bayless, Fred Bayless, Esther Biehl, Dorothy Bouck, Warren Bouck, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Myrt Brown, Caroline Browning, Judson Browning, **Elizabeth Brooks**, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Burdick, Dale Coats, Evelyn Coats, Carla Coch, Diane Converso, Jim Copenheaver, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Cronauer, Cynthia Culley, Paul Culley, Elsie Cushing, Mr. and Mrs. George Dunham, Ann Eisenhardt, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, Walter Franklin, Mary Alice Fuller, Paul Fuller, Helen Graves, Connie Gradoni, Peter Gradoni, Marcia Haberfield, Ellen Hardy, Nathan Hardy, Millie Hayes, Kevin Hotchkiss, Matthew Hotchkiss, Sandra Hotchkiss, Viola Ide, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Kathy Kent, Clarence Klingensmith, Margaret Klingensmith, Ellen Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lang, **Erma Larson**, Cathy MacDonald, Marjorie Mason, Angie Ninos, Mary Peterson, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Raymond Pitzrick, **Vivian Pitzrick**, Ona Reynolds, Violet Sharrett, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Spencer, Mrs. Jake Strong, Mrs. George Taggart, Evelyn Thomas, Pat Tompkins, Lynn Rositzke, Bea Thompson, Theodore Vossler, Suzanne Wood

Total Number of Observers: 249

Complete compilations by region
may be obtained at a club meeting.

Michael F. Galas
16 Grand Avenue
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Gerald R. Rising
295 Robinhill Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221

BIRDERS NOT WELCOME on AMHERST ISLAND this WINTER

The 400 residents of Amherst Island have had their fill of owl watchers. This small (10 mile) island at the east end of Lake Ontario has become widely known as the North American winter hotspot for northern owls and hawks. Consequently there has been a massive influx of people onto an island in which all land is privately owned and which essentially has a single two-lane road serving the island.

Two letters in a recent issue of *Winging It*, the newsletter of the American Birding Association, describe a highly sensitive and explosive situation. The writers, one of whom is the president of the Kingston Field Naturalists, implore birders to stay off the island this winter and allow tempers to cool. This will give time to try to work out a compromise.

Landowners are furious about highly congested roads, blocked access lanes to fields, damage to fences and trees, letter and overly zealous photographers using close-up flash and even grabbing the smaller owls.

Should there be an owl incursion, our BOS members will consider other sites such as the Cape Vincent area in New York State southeast of Kingston, Ontario. We have heard of no resentment on Wolf Island near Kingston, Ont. Then there is the countryside west of Kingston where our BOS trip found the Great Grey Owls on that memorable weekend in February of 1984.

Bill Burch

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please note the following address changes:

Alice Ulrich
c/o Barbara Bliss
13196 Kyle Rd RD #1
Wolcott, NY 14590

Jacqueline Stains
761 W River Parkway
Grand Island, NY 14072

BOS MEETINGS

Jan. 8: Joint meeting with Buffalo Audubon Society, the program will feature Mary Ellen Foley, Canadian Rehab, Center.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at

8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

NOTICE: Cancellations due to weather conditions will be aired on the following radio stations: WGR 550 and WBEN 930.

FIELD TRIPS

Dec. 15: Sunday. BOS Christmas bird count.

Dec. 21: Saturday. Audubon Chestnut Ridge Christmas Count. Compiler: Paul Lazarus (633-4185).

Dec. 22: Sunday. Niagara Falls, Ontario-NY Christmas bird count. Compiler: Kay's Roy (Ont) & Willie D'Anna (NY).

Dec. 28: Saturday. Beaver Meadow Christmas Count. Compiler: Dave Junkin (457-3228).

1992

Jan. 4: SATURDAY not Sunday. Buffalo waterfront for Snowy Owls, then Niagara River. Meet at Vermont and Busti at 8:00 am. Leader: Bill Burch.

Jan. 12. Sunday. Waterfowl Count for the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs. This is the target date, but any date between January 11 and 19, inclusive, is acceptable. For a territory call the compiler, Wavel Barber (683-3061).

- Feb. 2: Sunday. Niagara River, Meet at Vermont and Busti at 8:00 a.m. or at 8:15 a.m. at the first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Ron Lange (649-1231).
- Feb. 23: Sunday. Canadian Owl trip. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Vermont and Busti or at 9:15 a.m. at the first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leaders: Blayne Farnan (1-416-834-7541) and Dick Byron (662-4783).
- Mar. 21: SATURDAY not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara County. Meet in Wright's Corners (north of Lockport) on Hwy 78 at the Top's Market at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Willie D'Anna (1-731-4348).
- Mar. 29: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for spring waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World 0.1 mi. east of Main and Transit. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297).
- Apr. 12: Sunday. B.O.S. April Bird Count.
- Apr. 18: SATURDAY not Sunday. Hawk migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Howard Johnson parking lot in Niagara Falls where I-190 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Rt. 62), or go directly to Beamer Conservation Area. This is 30 miles into Canada on the escarpment above Grimsby.
- Apr. 26: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World 0.1 mi. east of Main and Transit. We will join the GOS at the Braddock Bay Park Shelter. Leaders: Mike Zebehazy (662-6987) and Bob Spahn (GOS).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer:

Jane Heyer
296 Westchester Blvd
Kenmore, NY 14217
875-3318

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$0.50 per copy.

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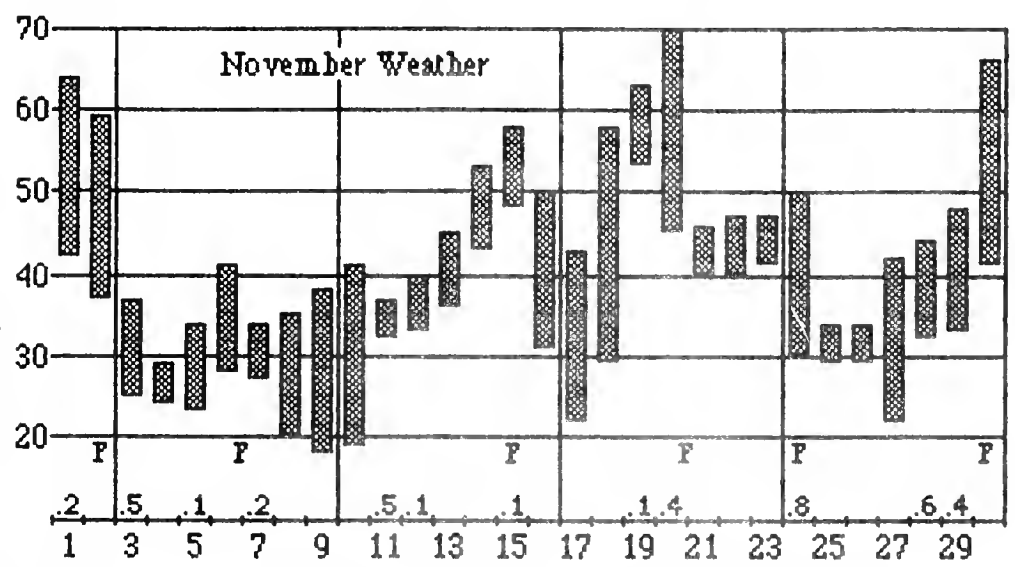
December 1991

Number 12

THE MONTH: November 1991

Temperature in November averaged 39°, a degree below normal, but as it was last month that datum is misleading. From November 3rd to 10th the temperature averaged 14° below normal and from the 14th to the 23rd it averaged 7° above normal. Low temperature records were set on the 8th, 9th, and 10th and a high on the 30th.

The total precipitation was 4.0 inches, about a half inch above normal, but at least a trace fell on every day except the 9th and 17th. Of course much of this fell as snow. The 18 inches of snow at the airport was most since 1976, the winter of the famous January Blizzard of 1977, but snow totals varied widely across the region. In the northern Buffalo suburbs the total was under 6 inches while in Lancaster, only a few miles from the airport, it was almost 30 inches.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 5th was a Saturday, the 6th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

pushing surprising numbers of jaegers to the east end of Lake Erie where 8 on the 2nd and 3 on the 28th were observed. On Lake Ontario it is east winds that blow these "gull police" to Hamilton.

In the following comments comparisons are with records for the six years from 1985 to 1990 unless otherwise noted.

Most of the snow fell in lake effect storms on the 3rd and 24th. The storm of the 3rd represented the earliest major snowfall since 1909, with 4 to more than 8 inches falling across the region. Even more snow, just under a foot, fell in Lancaster on the 24th, but a few miles to the north only 2 inches were recorded.

Thunder and lightning accompanied these snowstorms, which the weather bureau describes as the worst in seven years.

Strong west and southwest winds blew on many days of the month,

Red-throated Loons were recorded in good numbers this year with a maximum count of 13 on the 3rd. None at all were seen last November, and the highest count during the previous 5 years was 2. The number of reports of Red-necked Grebes was also high for the seven years, 8 reports this year against no more than 2 during the other years.

Two delightful American White Pelicans sailed together high in the water of Jordan Harbor through the last half of the month, looking like clipper ships under full sail. As you might expect, this is the first November report in these seven years and almost certainly many more. Beardslee and Mitchell report none later than October 5th in their records through 1970, and I have not checked the 1971 to 1984 records.

A single Greater White-fronted Goose in Chautauqua County through much of the month turns out, according to Sundell who has carefully checked previous reports, to be the first authenticated record for the county. Previous records all turned out to be probable barnyard fowl.

Numbers of diving ducks, and in particular Canvasbacks and Redheads, are down for the month from the past 3 or 4 years. We may finally be feeling the influence of the major declines in many duck species noted for these years in other parts of the country.

The number of Rough-legged Hawk reports is high for this seven year period, a good sign for birders, but probably not for farmers. It suggests that the vole population continues high on the Lake Plains. The Medical School Merlin seems to have reappeared this winter. Noted again by Schopp and Suggs on the Main Street (now Medical School) Campus of the University at Buffalo, this is, it seems reasonable to assume, the same individual that found pickings good in this area last year.

In addition to some high gull counts, a striking change from last month, many of the usual less common species appeared including a Common Black-headed Gull and a couple of Black-legged Kittiwakes; however, numbers of Little Gulls continue low. A few white-winged gulls appeared and the number of Lesser Black-backed Gulls continues to increase. Bellerby's counts of gulls at the Niagara River mouth, taken from Niagara-on-the-Lake, give an interesting picture of the fluctuations of gull populations during the month. He recorded a build-up to 4000 Bonaparte's Gulls on the 15th, but then a fall-off to as low as 305 on the 20th. But from then the numbers mounted, first slowly but then late in the month to 13,500 on the 29th. He notes that the large gulls (Ring-billed and Herring Gulls) moved in on the 25th, shortly before the Bonies. D'Anna's observations confirm this with a further increment on the 30th. Rew's count of 20,000 Ring-billed Gulls in the Dunkirk area on the 20th suggests that these gulls may be moving into the Niagara River from the west. Wind directions certainly support this belief: they blew strongly out of the west (from between 230° and 290°) for the entire period from the 24th to the 28th. On the 30th there were very strong winds directly from the west but the additional build-up on that day may have been a retreat from both Erie and Ontario from gusts that rose to 52 mph.

A Boreal Owl at Rock Point on the 9th brought out numbers of birders, none of whom were able to locate the bird on the next or subsequent days, but they were able to turn up a Saw-whet Owl, several Long-eared Owls, a Screech Owl, and a Snowy Owl. Snowy Owls appeared in unprecedented numbers. Against this year's 11 reports with a maximum of 4 birds on the 23rd, the most in any of the previous 6 Novembers was 2 in 1987. In 4 of those 6 years they went unreported.

Several Bohemian Waxwings were located near Fort Niagara in a large flock of Cedar Waxwings.

The only Yellow-rumped Warblers of the month were one also found near the fort and another at Tifft. A Common Yellowthroat and later an Ovenbird were reported in East Aurora.

Common Redpolls returned to the area en mass with a single flock of 400 the best record, but other winter finches were either unreported (crossbills, Pine Grosbeak) or tallied only in small numbers (Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak).

In the table on the next page are November late migration dates for a number of species, including all "scheduled" to leave in November by the Date Guide (DG column), and comparing this year with the previous 6 in order from 1985 to 1990. What interpretation can we place on these results? I suggest that this was, despite the snow, a rather late season for departures. (Recall that the Guide dates are meant to be extreme.) In particular, shorebirds seem to have stayed later than in other recent years. Note that 7 shorebird species set late dates for the 7 year period and 2 of those even beat the Date Guide. In addition we have late dates for Parasitic Jaeger, Black Tern, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, and Ovenbird, all beating the Date Guide as well. — G. Rising

SPECIES	DG	91	85 - 90	SPECIES	DG	91	85 - 90
American Bittern	6	-	-, -, -, -, -	Am Woodcock	D6	10	1, 9, -, 4, 2, -
Blue-winged Teal	16	2	-, -, 5, -, -, -	Parasitic Jaeger	26	29	-, -, -, -, 6
Turkey Vulture	14	-	-, -, -, 11, -, -	Forster's Tern	8	-	-, -, -, -, -
Common Moorhen	5	-	-, 29, -, -, -, -	Black Tern	13	30	-, -, -, -, -
Bl-bellied Plover	28	12	-, -, -, -, 4, 3	Eastern Phoebe	7	23	-, -, -, 6, -, 1
L Golden Plover	12	11	-, -, -, -, 3	Tree Swallow	O27	23	23, -, -, -, -, -
Semipalm Plover	5	-	-, -, -, -, -	Marsh Wren	9	-	26, 29, 26, -, -, -
Greater Yellowlegs	D1	23	-, 4, 15, 8, 13, -	American Pipit	25	-	-, -, -, 25, 19, 3
Lesser Yellowlegs	8	-	6, -, 15, -, -, -	Solitary Vireo	7	-	11, -, -, -, -, -
Ruddy Turnstone	7	-	-, 5, -, -, -, -	Orange-cr Warbler	6	-	-, -, -, -, -, -
Sanderling	26	28	-, 12, -, -, -, -	Bl-thr Green Warbler	2	-	-, -, -, -, -, -
Wh-rumped Sandpiper	13	10	-, -, -, -, -, -	Palm Warbler	13	-	-, -, -, -, -, -
Pectoral Sandpiper	12	17	-, -, -, 3, -, 3	Ovenbird	O15	11	-, -, -, -, -, -
Common Snipe	25	9	16, -, 15, -, -, -	Chipping Sparrow	16	-	-, 17, -, 14, 25, 10

Literature cited:

- Andrle, Robert F., et al., eds. *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York & Adjacent Ontario*. Sixth Edition. Buffalo, Buffalo Ornithological Society, 1991.
- Beardslee, Clark S. and Harold D. Mitchell. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Volume 22, 1965.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

Name of Bird	Nov.	Number	Location	Observer
Red-throated Loon	2	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
"	2	1	Shadigee	Collins, Galas
"	13, 23, 24	3, 1, 1	Niag.-on-Lake	Bellerby
Red-necked Grebe	9	1	Fort Erie, Ont	Humann
"	9, 13, 19	1	"	Humann, Holmes(EABC)
"	15	1	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
"	17, 24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory, Goetz
"	24	1	Buckhorn Is. SP	D & D Suggs
* <u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	17	2	Jordan Harbor, Ont	Watson, Rising, Collins
"	23	2	"	Watson et al
D-crest. Cormorant	10, 23	3, 7	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Flory et al
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	17	2	Port Weller, Ont	Watson et al
Tundra Swan	2F	1	Dayton Twp	Rew, Buck
"	2F, 30	70, 5	Athol Springs	Andrle
"	3	54	Charlotte Twp	Budniewski
"	3	20	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	D'Anna, Broderick(BOS)
"	3-28	100max	Mayville	Flory

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Tundra Swan	5-13	52 max	Fort Erie, Ont	Sommerville
"	7	20	Brockton	Budniewski
"	9	48	Ft. Erie-Niag Falls	Watson, Galas
"	9,28	12,4	Crescent Beach	Humann
"	10-17	27 max	Niagara Falls	Many observers
"	30	71	Mayville	Rew, Buck
Mute Swan	9,10	1	LaSalle Pk., Bflo	Watson et al
Gr. White-fr. Swan	9-30	1	Burgeson W.S.	Sundell et al
Snow Goose	2	12	Iroquois NWR	Collins, Galas
"	2,16	8,9	"	Watson, Collins et al
"	19	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	30	1	Fort Erie, Ont	Humann
Brant	2	1	Mayville	Flory
"	8	1	Fredonia	Flory
"	28,30	3	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Collins et al
Wood Duck	9	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	D & D Suggs
Blue-winged Teal	2L	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Northern Shoveler	2	2	Athol Springs	Andrle
"	16	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Galas
Canvasback	2-28	48 max	Mayville	Flory
Redhead	2-28	50 max	Mayville	Flory
"	29	20	Buffalo Harbor	Watson et al
Ring-necked Duck	2-30	25 max	Mayville	Flory, Rew et al
"	29	18	Buffalo Harbor	Collins et al
Oldsquaw	17F	10	Lewiston Twp	D'Anna (BOS)
"	19	2	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	Holmes (BOS)
Black Scoter	12	3	Rock Point PP	Andrle, Thill
White-winged Scoter	30	1	Mayville	Rew, Buck
Bufflehead	2-28	100 max	Mayville	Flory
Hooded Merganser	9	76	Wilson-Tusc. SP	D&D Suggs
"	24	27	Buckhorn Is. SP	D&D Suggs
"	24,30	100,37	Mayville	Flory, Rew et al
Ruddy Duck	2-30	45 max	Mayville	Flory, Rew et al
"	2-23	7 other reports	throughout region	
Bald Eagle	30	1 ad w/grn tag	Queenston, Ont	D'Anna et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	2-24	9 reports	throughout WNY	
Cooper's Hawk	1-26	5 reports	throughout WNY	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3-12	1-2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	24	2	Limestone	Budniewski
Rough-legged Hawk	2-30	14 reports	throughout region	
Merlin	26,27	1	Buffalo	Schopp, Suggs
American Coot	15	57	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	Watson
"	30	1400	Mayville	Rew, Buck
Black-bellied Plover	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	3	4	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	D'Anna, Broderick(BOS)
"	9	3	Crescent Beach, Ont	Humann
"	10,12L	5,2	Rock Point PP	Watson, Andrle et al
Lesser Golden-Plover	11L	1	Burgeson WS	Sundell
Killdeer	16	16	Morgan's Point, Ont	D'Anna et al
"	23	3	Burgeson WS	Sundell
"	23	1	Rock Point PP	D'Anna et al
Greater Yellowlegs	2	6	Villanova Twp	Rew, Buck
"	16	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Galas

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Greater Yellowlegs	16	1	Rock Point PP	D'Anna et al
"	23L	3	Burgeson WS	Sundell
Sanderling	12	4	Rock Point PP	Andrle, Thill
"	28L	1	Crescent Beach, Ont	Humann
White-r. Sandpiper	3	1	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	D'Anna, Broderick(BOS)
"	9	3	Crescent Beach, Ont	Humann
"	10L	5	Rock Point PP	Watson et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	9	1	Crescent Beach, Ont	Humann
"	9,11	5,5	Burgeson WS	Sundell
"	17L	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	D'Anna(BOS-GOS)
Purple Sandpiper	9F	2	Niagara Falls, Ont	Watson, Galas
"	23	1	Rock Point PP	D'Anna et al
"	28	5	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, DiTomasso
Dunlin	2	5	Dayton Twp	Rew, Buck
"	9	275	Rock Point PP	D'Anna et al
"	9,11	8	Burgeson WS	Sundell
"	9,23	40,4	Crescent Beach, Ont	Humann, D'Anna et al
"	10,27	3,2	Beaver ls. SP	Chilton
"	16	5	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Galas
"	19	3	Niagara Falls, Ont	Holmes (EABC)
Common Snipe	1,5	2,1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	9L	1	Chautauqua Twp	Flory, Mahoney
American Woodcock	10L	1	Rock Point PP	Watson et al
*Red Phalarope	2F	2	Athol Springs	Andrle
"	9	1	Niagara Falls	Watson, Galas
"	17	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Bellerby, D'Anna(BOS)
Phalarope	10	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	D'Anna et al
*Parasitic Jaeger	2F,28	8,3	Athol Springs	Andrle
"	28,29	1,1	Niagara Falls, Ont	Collins, Watson et al
Jaeger species	29	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	D'Anna et al
Franklin's Gull	3	1	Athol Springs	Andrle
Little Gull	27	1	Niagara Falls	Humann
"	28	1	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	28,30	1,2	Lewiston Twp	D'Anna et al
<u>C. Black-headed Gull</u>	3F	1	Port Weller, Ont	D'Anna, Broderick(BOS)
"	17	1	"	Watson, Rising, Collins
Bonaparte's Gull	29	13,500	Niag-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Ring-billed Gull	10	20,000(est.)	Dunkirk-Canadaway Cr.	Rew, Buck
Iceland Gull	17F,28	1,1	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory, Goetz
"	23	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont	Bellerby et al
"	26-30	5-6	Niagara River	Planck et al
L. Black-b. Gull	10F	1 ad.	Niagara Falls, Ont	Andrle, D'Anna
"	17	1 ad.	"	Rew, Horbett
"	26-30	1-3 ad.	Niagara River	Planck et al
"	28,30	2,1 ad.	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont	D'Anna et al
"	29	3 ad.	Niagara Falls, Ont	D'Anna et al
"	29	1 imm.	"	"
Glaucous Gull	27F,29	2,1	Niagara River	Planck et al
<u>Black-leg. Kittiwake</u>	2F	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Potter, D'Anna
"	2F,28	1,1	Athol Springs	Andrle
Common Tern	2	77	Niagara Falls	Collins, Galas
"	2	36	Buffalo	D'Anna, Potter
"	27	1	Beaver ls. SP	Chilton

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Tern	30	2	Fort Erie, Ont	Humann
Black Tern	3,30	1,1	Fort Erie, Ont	Watson, Rising
Mourning Dove	21	229	Kiantone Twp	Sundell
Snowy Owl	1F,29	2,1	Dunkirk Harbor	Smith, Rew et al
"	10,23	1,2	Rock Point PP	Watson, D'Anna
"	17-30	1-2	Niagara Falls, Ont	Many observers
"	19-28	1-2	Ft. Niagara, SP	Many observers
"	23,24	2	Niag-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	30	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo	Watson et al
Long-eared Owl	9F	5	Rock Point PP	D'Anna et al
*Boreal Owl	9	1	Rock Point PP	Potter, D'Anna
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	9,16	1,1	Rock Point PP	Potter et al
"	10	1	"	Watson et al
Red-bellied Wdpkr	4,7,11	1,1,1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	5,7-11	2,1	Fort Erie, Ont(f)	Sommerville
Eastern Phoebe	23L	1	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
Tree Swallow	23L	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Henderson, Yoerg
Common Raven	20	1	Allegany SP	Eaton
Tufted Titmouse	1-30	2	Carrollton Twp	Eaton
"	1-30	4	Elma Twp	Collins
"	2-16	2	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski
"	19-21	1	Amity Lake (f)	Pitzrick
Carolina Wren	1-30	8 reports	throughout region	
Winter Wren	9	8	Tifft NP	Watson, Galas
"	27	1	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	16L	1	Rock Point PP	D'Anna
Eastern Bluebird	23	3	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
Hermit Thrush	9	13	Tifft NP	Watson, Galas
"	18	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Gray Catbird	5-12	1-2	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Mockingbird	1-30	1	Fort Erie, Ont	Sommerville
"	9	1	Crescent Beach, Ont	Humann
"	10	1	Long Beach, Ont	Watson et al
"	12	1	Rock Point PP	Andrle, Thill
"	17	6	St. Catharines Ont	Watson et al
*Bohemian Waxwing	17	2	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna, Rew(BOS-GOS)
"	19	3	Ft. Niagara SP	Holmes (EABC)
"	24	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Watson, Rising
Northern Shrike	2-29	9 reports	throughout region	
Yellow-r. Warbler	24	1	Ft. Niagara SP	D & D Suggs
Ovenbird	5-11L	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Common Yellowthroat	1L	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Rufous-s. Towhee	9L	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Galas
Fox Sparrow	1	3	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
"	1,2	2	Kenmore (f)	Benham
"	3	2	Charlotte Twp	Budniewski
"	9	1	Rock Point PP	D'Anna et al
"	10,11,12L	1,1,2	East Aurora	Holmes
White-cr. Sparrow	16	1	Shadigee	Watson, Galas
Lapland Longspur	8	1	Pomfret Twp	Flory
"	9	3	Somerset	Chilton
Eastern Meadowlark	5	5	Wales Twp	O. Rosche
Rusty Blackbird	28	1	Sheridan Twp	R&C Budniewski

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Purple Finch	3	1	Charlotte Twp	Budniewski
"	3	1	Wales Twp (f)	O. Rosche
"	8,23	1,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	14,15	2,1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
*Common Redpoll	16F	5	Rock Point PP	D'Anna
"	17	400	over Ft. Niag. SP	D'Anna
"	18	17	East Aurora	Holmes
Pine Siskin	7	1	Kenmore (f)	Benham
"	9	1	Crescent Beach, Ont	Humann
"	11	3	Fredonia	Flory
"	18,26	5,1	East Aurora	Holmes
American Goldfinch	16	150	Rock Point PP	D'Anna et al
Evening Grosbeak	3	8	Chautauqua Twp	Rew
"	9	2	Jaeger Rocks, Ont	D'Anna et al
"	25,27	5,4	Amity Lake	Pitzrick

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	265
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	6
Total for year.	271

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Lake Ontario Plain

October 26, 1991

Fifteen birders met in Wright's Corners, north of Lockport, to begin the trip. The weather was interesting. A cold front was stalled to the north allowing us to experience record warmth (77° at Buffalo). Quiet winds were unable to clear the fog-shrouded lake. This limited our visibility over the water to roughly 1000 yards. However, this may actually have been a benefit as the waterbirds seem to move in closer to shore under such conditions.

There were several highlights on the trip. We started with two, possibly three, Rough-legged Hawks just west of the NYSEG power plant in Sommerset. At the foot of Quaker Road we had an incredible 306 Common Loons on the smooth water. For the day our totals were 330 Commons in Sommerset Twp. and 95 in Yates Twp. Near Lover's Lane along Lake Road Road were 3 Eastern Bluebirds and one sharp looking Swamp Sparrow.

At Golden Hill State Park, two Fox Sparrows welcomed us we began our walk. Everyone got decent looks, some even in the scope. Along the top of the scenic red cliffs, a Northern Shrike was being harassed by a flock of 60 Goldfinches. Although we had rather brief looks at this bird, we did find another upon leaving the park and one more in Yates which we had a great look at. Also from the cliffs we had several loons, of course including one fly-by Red-throated. Outside Golden Hill, in a plowed field just east of that hosted 11 Black-bellied Plovers on last year's trip, were 10 Lesser Golden-Plovers, very well camouflaged. If we had not seen them fly in, we would not have found them. Interestingly, the adjacent field to the east is where had the White-fronted Geese on the spring trip.

At Shadigee we had a Mockingbird (less common here than further west on the lake plain), over 100 White-winged Scoters, one female Black Scoter, loads of Horned Grebes, several fly-by flocks of migrating Chickadee, and, of course, a lot more Common Loons. East of Shadigee a couple of miles, a field which appeared freshly planted was host to over 140 American Pipits and at least one Snow Bunting. Unfortunately we were too distant and low to see the birds on the ground though some perched for a few minutes, horribly backlit, in a tree. Their characteristic silhouette of long tail and thin bill was evident, however, as was their distinctive "pip-it" call when one flew near enough to hear.

At the foot of Yates-Carlton Townline Road were - guess what - more loons. Among them was a distant Red-throated. There was an unfamiliar call from out over the lake, heard several times. We surmised the birds responsible for it were in the fog out of our sight and that they might possibly be Brant. We were unable to confirm our suspicions, however.

Once again the Lake Ontario Plain produced the birds. Our group had 62 species on this marvelous day.

Willie D'Anna

B.O.S.-G.O.S. Niagara River Trip

November 17, 1991

Though the day began cold (23°), the sun warmed things up quickly. It reached 50° and with light winds, it was a mild autumn day. Bob Brock, the scheduled leader, had taken ill and I was called upon to take over for him. I did not know I would be leading the trip until the night before. Therefore, I did no scouting and I heard no recent reports from others except for general comments that the gulling was very poor. Since the trip did not begin until 9:30 I did some searching in the Town of Porter beforehand. As I did so, flocks of Common Redpolls were migrating overhead and I tallied over 400 for the day, almost all along the Lake Ontario shoreline. Bob Spahn, the G.O.S. leader, stated that they had had thousands as they drove from Rochester! Anyway, other than the Redpolls there was a very good thing and a very bad thing that happened at Fort Niagara, the meeting place for the two groups. The good thing was that I found two Bohemian Waxwings before the trip started which were refound after everyone arrived. The bad thing was that we had such a long study of the Bohemian that I decided not to go down to the Coast Guard Station, only a few hundred yards from the waxwings. What I did not know was that Gordon Bellerby was on the other side of the river at Niagara-on-the-Lake waiting for us to arrive at the water's edge so that he could wave his arms and rejoice with us at the Red Phalarope that was swimming just on the other side of the Coast Guard Station wall!! Woops!

The gulling on the river was indeed poor on this day. We had only one Lesser Black-backed Gull above the falls in addition to the four common species of gulls. We had to be content with a group of 22 Tundra Swans and the raft of ducks above the water control gates with a few shorebirds above the Engineerium. The latter group included a few Dunlin, two Killdeer, and a late Pectoral Sandpiper found by Bob Spahn.

It was at Niagara Falls that our group split. Those who wished to go went with me for a Black-headed Gull at Port Weller and two White Pelicans at Jordan Harbor. We missed the Black-headed but did get the Pelicans, an exceptionally rare bird in the B.O.S. region. There was still enough light to head for Niagara-on-the-Lake to try for the Phalarope. The few people left were game so off we went. It was just before sunset when we arrived at the north end of the river. And the Phalarope was still there, right next to the Coast Guard Station wall!!

Willie D'Anna

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Buffalo Ornithological Society has recently lost two of its long-time members:

Dr. Davis Green - October 30, 1991

Ward M. Klepfer - November 22, 1991

Our sincere condolences to the families.

Welcome to the following new Associate Members:

Mrs. Kathy Collins
910 Knabb Rd.
Elma, NY 14059
Tel. 683-3699

Mrs. Sylvia Galas
16 Grand Ave.
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Tel. 693-4892

BOS MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

NOTICE: Cancellations due to weather conditions will be aired on the following radio stations: WGR 550 and WBEN 930.

FIELD TRIPS

- Jan. 12: Sunday. Waterfowl Count for the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs. This is the target date, but any date between January 11 and 19, inclusive, is acceptable. For a territory call the compiler, Wavel Barber (683-3061).
- Feb. 2: Sunday. Niagara River, Meet at Vermont and Busti at 8:00 a.m. or at 8:15 a.m. at the first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Ron Lange (649-1231).
- Feb. 23: Sunday. Canadian Owl trip. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Vermont and Busti or at 9:15 a.m. at the first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leaders: Blayne Farnan (1-416-834-7541) and Dick Byron (662-4783).
- Mar. 21: SATURDAY not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara County. Meet in Wright's Corners (north of Lockport) on Hwy 78 at the Top's Market at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Willie D'Anna (1-731-4348).
- Mar. 29: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for spring waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World 0.1 mi. east of Main and Transit. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297).
- Apr. 12: Sunday. B.O.S. April Bird Count.

Apr. 18: SATURDAY not Sunday. Hawk migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Howard Johnson parking lot in Niagara Falls where I-190 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Rt. 62), or go directly to Beamer Conservation Area. This is 30 miles into Canada on the escarpment above Grimsby.

Apr. 26: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World 0.1 mi. east of Main and Transit. We will join the GOS at the Braddock Bay Park Shelter. Leaders: Mike Zebehazy (662-6987) and Bob Spahn (GOS).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a-Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer:

Jane Heyer
296 Westchester Blvd
Kenmore, NY 14217
875-3318

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BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Volume 58

January 1992

Number 1

THE MONTH: December 1991

The December temperature average was 31° , 2.5° above normal, the high temperatures of the second week inflating both values. Precipitation totalled 3.8 inches, 0.4 inches above normal, but the 21 inches of snow was an inch below the December average.

As is usual this time of year, snow fell in narrow west to east bands across the region that moved north or south as the wind directions shifted. On the 4th and 5th for example, WNW winds brought

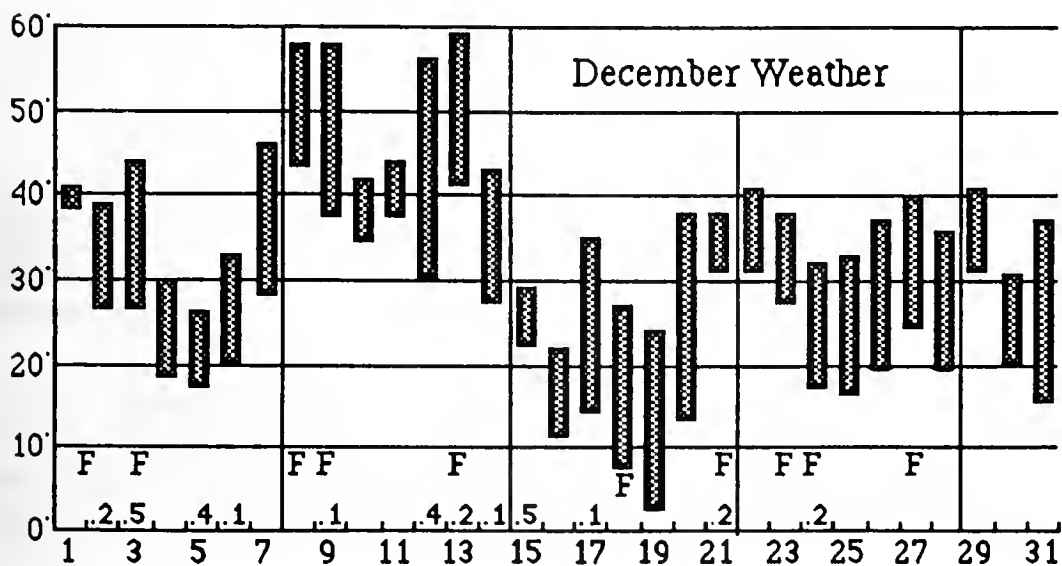
up to 20 inches of snow to parts of Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties, the band shifting north to Buffalo as the wind direction turned SW on the afternoon of the 5th to drop five inches on Buffalo.

The mild weather of the 7th through the 12th took away this snow quickly and the precipitation of that period fell as rain. But then the back of the cold front that passed through late on the 13th brought a weekend of strong winds and finally 7 to 12 inches of snow on Sunday the 15th. On that day gusts in Buffalo rose to 58 mph and in Dunkirk to 75.

The Buffalo Weather Bureau reported the rest of the month as "rather uneventful...with the exception of a few bouts of typical winter weather over parts of the Southern Tier."

Snow depth was more than an inch in Buffalo only on the 6th, 7th, and 16th through 22nd, but a few inches of snow fell on Christmas Eve, just enough to provide Buffalo a white Christmas.

The only Red-throated Loon was reported from Niagara-on-the-Lake on the 1st, quite in keeping with records from the past seven Decembers: it went unreported on four and only in 1988 were there two birds seen. The nine Common Loons reported on New York State Christmas Counts of the



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 7th was a Saturday, the 8th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

region included one on Green Pond in Orchard Park, where the small pond size and ice probably meant its eventual death. Individual Red-necked Grebes were reported through the month; in only one of the previous six Decembers were they recorded. An Eared Grebe spent much of the month in Dunkirk Harbor, this species not recorded in December since 1985. The two American White Pelicans remained in Jordan Harbor through the month.

It is interesting to find Tundra Swan records distributed across the region, but with none from Iroquois from which they may have been driven by low water. The Greater White-fronted Goose found with a Snow Goose in the Burgeson Wildlife Sanctuary near Jamestown on the 12th represents the first authenticated record for Chautauqua County, Sundell's careful check of previous submissions showing that they documentation did not separate the geese from similar barnyard fowl. Three late Snow Geese were in Iroquois on the 14th. Duck numbers seem about normal, thankfully, and in contrast to other parts of the country. I note in particular the increase of the number of Gadwalls. I recall this species from the 1940s as quite rare so the 121 on the Buffalo Christmas Count seems extraordinary. That is the most ever recorded, but in the mid-1970s the numbers rose briefly to a previous maximum of 105. (For once my memory is accurate: from 1929 to 1948 Gadwalls were only reported on Buffalo Christmas Counts in two years.) On the other hand, absent this December were Oldsquaw and scoters, the first December in seven with no scoters recorded.

A Red-shouldered Hawk on the 6th represents the first verified December record in seven years. Another was reported on the 29th. Rough-legged Hawks maintained numbers similar to those of recent years and possibly the same Merlin as found there last year returned to the University at Buffalo Main Street Campus on the 16th. Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe are the only shorebirds appearing on the New York State Christmas Counts of the region, the Purple Sandpipers having been last recorded on the 9th. They (for they were recorded on January 1) and the Dunlin at Niagara Falls were probably around and simply missed on the count, not a difficult thing to accomplish.

Gordon Bellerby's fly-by counts of gulls entering or leaving the lower Niagara River taken from Niagara-on-the-Lake include individual Lesser Black-backed and Common Black-headed Gulls, but as usual Bonaparte's Gulls make up the bulk of his observations. He remarks that his 40,000 maximum estimate of this species on the 8th is exactly the same number and date as in 1990. Along the Niagara River white-winged gulls were reported in small numbers as were Little Gulls and a single Black-legged Kittiwake. Quite remarkably two tern species were recorded in the Niagara River from Fort Erie: a Common Tern that stayed a day beyond its Date Guide range and a Black Tern that was weeks late. Snowy Owls were widespread: four were seen in Buffalo Harbor on the 28th.

The Loggerhead Shrike on December 1 is clearly the bird of the month. This increasingly rare summer resident and migrant has even less often been recorded in winter. In *Birds of New York*, E. H. Eaton says, "The author once saw a bird of this species on New Year's day in the town of Concord, Erie county." Beardslee and Mitchell add, "On November 21, 1954, east of Wilson, Braunberns, Nathan, Schaffner and Woldman saw a Loggerhead Shrike, which may have been either a wintering bird or an unusually late migrant." This year's bird was seen by Floury and Hentz.

Three warblers this December is unusual, the American Redstart found by the Benhams on the 1st at Beaver Island the remarkable bird. No redstarts were recorded in December during the past seven years and the latest date in Beardslee and Mitchell is November 4. A Field Sparrow sat comfortably in a feeder gobbling grain on a reserve south of Beaver Meadow on the 28th and two Swamp Sparrows were found the same day skulking in Sinking Ponds. The only Lapland Longspur report was of four on the 27th in Oakfield with a big flock of Horned Larks and Snow Buntings.

The flight of redpolls in November passed right through and none were recorded in December. Pine Siskins remain in low numbers as do Evening Grosbeaks. Up to 35 of the latter were recorded at Amity Lake and a flock of 60 was found in White Chapel Memorial Park on the BCC. Absent for five years, a single Pine Grosbeak was found in Oakland Rural Cemetery on the 22nd. — G. Rising

Literature cited:

Andrle, Robert F., et al., eds. *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York & Adjacent Ontario*. Sixth Edition. Buffalo, Buffalo Ornithological Society, 1991.

Beardslee, Clark S. and Harold D. Mitchell. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Volume 22, 1965.

Eaton, Elon Howard. *Birds of New York*. New York State Museum Memoir 12. Albany, The University of the State of New York, 1914. Part 2.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-throated Loon	1	1	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
Common Loon	23	3	lower Niagara R.	Watson
Horned Grebe	22	1	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
Red-necked Grebe	7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell, Flory, Rew
"	21,23	1,1	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna, Watson
"	22	1	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
* <u>Eared Grebe</u>	7	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Collins, Sundell et al
"	8	1	"	Rew, Buck
D.-crest. Cormorant	1	2	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
"	1	1	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
"	7-15	3-1	Dunkirk Harbor	many observers
"	21,23	3,2	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
"	27	1	Point Breeze	Listman
Tundra Swan	1	15	Allegany SP	A. Rosche
"	1	32	Mayville	Flory
"	6	16	over Carrollton Twp	Eaton
"	22	7	Buckhorn Is. SP	D & D Suggs
<u>Mute Swan</u>	12	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	Andrle
<u>Gr. White-fr. Goose</u>	12	1	Burgeson WS	Sundell
Snow Goose	7,8	1	Dunkirk Harbor	many observers
"	14	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Wood Duck	3	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Green-winged Teal	12	6	Burgeson WS	Sundell
Northern Pintail	22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory
Gadwall	3	16	Athol Springs	Andrle
"	12	8	Burgeson WS	Sundell
American Wigeon	1	60	Mayville	Flory
Canvasback	14	2000	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
Ring-necked Duck	1	35	Mayville	Flory
"	22	57	Buckhorn Is. SP	D & D Suggs
Hooded Merganser	1	170	Mayville	Flory
Common Merganser	14	4200	Chippawa, Ont.	D'Anna
Ruddy Duck	1	15	Mayville	Flory
Bald Eagle	13	1 imm.	Cold Spring Twp	Eaton
Sharp-sh. Hawk	4-29	8 reports	throughout WNY	
Cooper's Hawk	10-30	10 reports	throughout region	
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	1	East Aurora	Holmes

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Rough-legged Hawk	6-28	6 rep.-4max.	L. Ontario Pl & Allegany Co.	
<u>Merlin</u>	16	1	Buffalo	Suggs
American Coot	1	320	Mayville	Flory
"	8	148	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Killdeer	26	1	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
Purple Sandpiper	9	4	Niagara Falls	Bellerby
Dunlin	23	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	Watson
Little Gull	1,8,27,30	1,2,1,1	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
"	8	1	Niagara Falls	Andrle et al
"	28	1	Lewiston	R & K Collins
Bonaparte's Gull	8	40000	Niag-on-Lake	Bellerby
Iceland Gull	1-28	1-3	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont	many observers
"	7,15	1,1	Dunkirk Harbor	Sundell, Flory et al
"	14	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	D'Anna
"	28	1	Point Gratiot	Rew, Buck
L. Black-b. Gull	1	4	Niagara River	Brock (BOS)
"	1, 8	1,1 adults	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont	Bellerby, Andrle et al
"	10	1	"	Benham
"	11	3 adults	Niagara Falls, Ont	Holmes
<u>L. Black-b. Gull</u>	21	1 adult	over Porter Twp	D'Anna
"	27	1 adult	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers, Hentz
"	28	1 adult	"	Sundell, Rew et al
Glaucous Gull	1	1	Niagara River	Brock (BOS)
"	12	2	Niagara Falls	Bellerby
"	28	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont	R & K Collins
<u>Black-leg. Kittiwake</u>	8	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	Andrle et al
Common Tern	1	1	Niagara River	Brock (BOS)
"	8	1	Fort Erie	Andrle et al
Black Tern	1L	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew et al
Snowy Owl	1-27	2-1	Dunkirk Harbor	many observers
"	1-28	1-2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	many observers
"	6,30	1,1	Yates Twp.	Listman, Chilton
"	8	3	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna et al
"	8,28	1,1	Fort Niagara S.P.	many observers
"	21	1	Amherst Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
"	27,28,30	1	Wheatfield Twp.	Potter, D'Anna
"	28	4	Buffalo Harbor	R&K Collins
"	31	1	Tonawanda Twp.	D'Anna
Long-eared Owl	22	2	Porter Twp.	D'Anna
Short-eared Owl	13F,20,27	4,2,2	Corfu	Wolfling
"	19	2	Yates Twp.	Listman
"	21-28	1-2	Hanover Twp.	Flory, Goetz
"	22	2	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	27	6	Oakfield Twp.	Rising, Galas
Horned Lark	27	200	Oakfield Twp.	Rising, Galas
Black-cap. Chickadee	21	102	East Aurora	R. Collins et al
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	6	reports throughout WNY	
Carolina Wren	1-31	6	reports throughout WNY	
Winter Wren	27	2	Ward Twp.	Brooks
Eastern Bluebird	9,12,26,27	3,1,1,1	Amity Lake & Twp.	V&M Pitzrick
"	22	6	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
"	22,25	1,7	Elma Twp.	R. Collins.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Eastern Bluebird	24	2	Westfield Twp.	Hentz
"	27	7	Oakfield Twp.	Rising, Galas
Gray Catbird	31	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Mockingbird	27	1	Wainfleet Twp., Ont.	Andrle
"	28	1	Carleton Twp.	Listman
Northern Shrike	1-29	7	reports throughout WNY	
<u>Logger Shrike</u>	1	1	Pomfret Twp.	Hentz, Smith
Yellow-r. Warbler	14	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna
"	25	1	Lake Erie S.P.	Flory
American Redstart	1L	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	P&M Benham
Common Yellowthroat	4L	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Field Sparrow	28	1	Beaver Meadow W.R.	Rising et al
Swamp Sparrow	28	2	East Aurora	Holmes
White -cr. Sparrow	22	2	Lewiston Twp.	D'Anna
Lapland Longspur	27	4	Oakfield Twp.	Rising, Galas
Snow Bunting	27	100	Oakfield Twp.	Rising, Galas
"	28	100	Alabama Twp.	R & K Collins
"	28	120	Beaver Meadow W.R.	Rising et al
Eastern Meadowlark	8	1	Wales Twp.	O. Rosche
Rusty Blackbird	4,6,17	1,12,25	East Aurora	Holmes
*Pine Grosbeak	22	1	Porter Twp.	Potter, D'Anna
Purple Finch	1,19	1,1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	11,20	1,1	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	28	1	Carrollton Twp.(f)	Eaton
Pine Siskin	4,5,12	2,3,3	Wales Twp.(f)	O. Rosche
"	9	1	Eden Twp.(f)	Andrle
Evening Grosbeak	1-31	1-35	Amity Lake	Pitzrick et al
"	12	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	21,30	1,1	Wales Twp.(f)	O. Rosche
"	27	1	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	28	2	Beaver Meadow W.R.	Rising et al

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	271
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	2
Total for year.	273

Addenda 1988

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
<u>Dovekie</u>	Oct 23	1	Port Weller, Ont (ROM 154509)	Butler

Addenda 1991

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
<u>Mute Swan</u>	Sept 10 -Oct 3	3	Colden Twp	Schooley
Osprey	June 26	1	Bay Beach, Ont	Humann
Bald Eagle	June 25	1	Crescent Bch, Ont	Humann
Cooper's Hawk	July 16	1 ad+3yo	Orchard Park	Holmes, Saville
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	Apr 9	1	Amity Twp	M & V Pitzrick
N. Saw-whet Owl	Sept 29-30	1	Wethersfield Twp	D & M Junkin
" <u>Lawrence's Warbler</u> "	May 1	1	Farmersville Twp	D. Clark
<u>Prothonotary Warbler</u>	May 8	1	Grand Island	Rosenburg

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
<u>Worm-eating Warbler</u>	Apr 26	1	New Albion Twp	Rupp
Louisiana Waterthrush	Apr 7	1	Carrollton Twp	Eaton
<u>Dickcissel</u>	Nov 6	1	Orchard Park Twp	Miller

Report Of the 63rd B.O.S. Christmas Bird Count

A good Christmas count resulted from fair weather. It was sunny but cold in the morning and afternoon. There were 38 participants in the Buffalo circle. 78 species were counted, 948,325 individuals were reported in the 16 territories.

Facts and figures of the 63rd Buffalo Circle Christmas Count are reported below:

Date: December 15, 1991

Area: Centering on Grand Island, including both branches of the Niagara River and adjacent territory - from the Gorge below the Falls to Fort Erie and Buffalo.

Weather: Morning and afternoon were partly cloudy. Temperatures ranged from an early morning low of 22° (F) to an afternoon high of 25° (F), with winds from the WNW at 10-25 mph. The Niagara River was free of ice. There was no snow cover.

Coverage: Thirty eight observers in 19 parties made observations from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Party-hours were 151.25 (53 on foot and 98.25 by car), plus 16 hours at feeders and 9.5 hours owling. Party-miles were 789 (47 on foot and 742 by car).

Territories and Observers: (leaders underlined)

- A. Canada: Rainbow Bridge south to Welland River and Niagara River west to M.C.R.R., Portage Road and area boundary. Robert Andrie, James H. Gregory. 44 species; 23,576 individuals.
- B. Canada: Welland River south to Black Creek and the Niagara River west to the Queen Elizabeth Way and area boundary. Richard Byron, Edward Berst. 31 species; 1380 individuals.
- C. Canada: Queen Elizabeth Way west to area boundary and south to Bowen Road. Wavel Barber, Maxine Barber. 21 species; 701 individuals.
- D. Canada: Black Creek south to the Peace Bridge and the Niagara River west to the Queen Elizabeth Way. Frances Rew, Audrey Horbet, Ellen Schopp. 34 species; 2646 individuals.
- E. Canada: Bowen Road south to area boundary and east to Queen Elizabeth Way and Niagara River. Harold Axtell, Blayne Farnan, Drew Campbell, Marcya Foster. 35 species; 770 individuals.
- F. Niagara Falls: Porter Road, Hyde Park Blvd., Pine Ave. and Main St. south to Niagara River, including Goat and Cayuga Islands and east to Military Road. Ed Crohn, Karen Renning, Edward Crohn, Maryann Stegmier.

G. North

Tonawanda: Military Rd. southeast to N.Y. State Barge Canal and Niagara River northeast to area boundary. Willie D'Anna, Ken Cohen, Tom Insalaco, Dan Robertson, Feeder watchers: Anna Bauer, Mary Clemesha, Edward D'Anna, Gertrude Ruggles, Betsy Potter. 47 species; 7165 individuals.

H. Tonawanda:

Sheridan Dr. north to N.Y. State Barge Canal and Niagara River east to area boundary. Mike Galas, Gerald Rising, William Watson. 43 species; 3371 individuals.

J. Buffalo:

Sheridan Dr. east and south to area boundary, west to Niagara River. Marcia O'Bara, Tom O'Bara. 28 species; 3260 individuals

K. Grand

Island: West of Stoney Point Rd., north of Huth and Long Roads to the Niagara River. Ronald Lang. 32 species; 919 individuals.

L. Grand

Island: Huth and Long Roads south to Whitehaven Road and Stoney Point Rd., west to the Niagara River. Bill Burch, Thomas Burke. 26 species; 3708 individuals.

M. Grand

Island: East of Stoney Poinr Rd. and north of Whitehaven Rd. to the Niagara River. Mike Zebehazy. 36 species; 1777 individuals.

N. Grand

Island: Whitehaven Rd. south to Love Rd. and Baseline Rd. west to the Niagara River. Robert Brock. 20 species; 609 individuals.

O. Grand

Island: Whitehaven Rd. south to Love Rd. and Baseline Rd. east to the Niagara River. Chuck Rosenburg, John Rosenburg. 27 species; 1293 individuals.

P. Grand

Island: Love Rd. south to Spaulding Rd. from the East Branch to the West Branch of the Niagara River. Doug Happ, Pat Martin. 36 species; 4861 individuals.

Q. Grand

Island: South of Spaulding Rd. to the Niagara River. William Bogacki, Dick Christensen, John Love, Edward Ratajczek. 33 species; 7645 individuals.

Species Recorded: With reference to the species count, in those cases in which a species was reported in three or fewer territories, the letters in parentheses indicate the territories in which they were reported.

Common Loon - 7 (A,G,Q)
 Pied-billed Grebe - (H,P)
 Horned Grebe - 3 (A,G,J)
 Eared Grebe - 1 (A) FIRST EVER
 Double-cr. Cormorant - 3 (G,H)
 Great Blue Heron - 39
 Tundra Swan - 37 (F,G) High max. 10
 Canada Goose - 2065 High max. 1770
 Wood Duck - 1 (G)
 Am. Black Duck - 129 Below Ave.
 Mallard - 2969
 Gadwall - 121 (A,P) High max. 57

American Wigeon - 40
 Canvasback - 8464 Above Ave.
 Redhead - 104 Below Ave.
 Ring-necked Duck - 16 (K) High
 Greater Scaup - 1729 Above Ave.
 Lesser Scaup - 14 (A,Q)
 Common Goldeneye - 1776 Below Ave.
 Bufflehead - 397 Below Ave.
 Hooded Merganser - 16
 Common Merganser - 568 Below Ave. 5192
 Red-brest. Merganser - 61 Below Ave. 273

Northern Harrier - 9 (B,D)
Sharp-sh. Hawk - 4
Cooper's Hawk - 2 (G,O)
Red-tailed Hawk - 96
Rough-legged Hawk - 3 (B,E,G)
Am. Kestrel - 37
Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 (F)
Am. Coot - 12 (A,K,P)
Little Gull - 2 (A)
Bonaparte's Gull - 12,203 High max. 10,761
Ring-billed Gull - 14,634 High max. 7692
Herring Gull - 15,164 High max. 10,100
Glaucous Gull - 1 (A)
Gr. Black-b. Gull - 657 High max. 262
Black-leg. Kittiwake - 2 (A) 6th time
Common Tern - 1 (D) 2nd time since 1964

Rock Dove - 1834
Mourning Dove - 316
Screech Owl - 7
Great Horned Owl - 6 (B,M,O)
Short-eared Owl - 5 (E)
N. Saw-whet Owl - 1 (D)

Belted Kingfisher - 8
Red-bellied Wdpkr. - 16 High max. 5
Downy Wdpkr. - 57
Hairy Wdpkr - 8
N. Flicker - 9 (B,G,M)

Blue Jay - 212
Am. Crow - 634 High max. 458
Black-capped Chickadee - 446
Tufted Titmouse - 2 (L,P)
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 8
White-br. Nuthatch - 27
Brown Creeper - 11
Carolina Wren - 1 (G)
Winter Wren - 1 (M)
Golden-cr. Kinglet - 36
Am. Robin - 28 (H,P) Low 111
N. Mockingbird - 5 (D,E,P)
Cedar Waxwing - 38 (E,H)
N. Shrike - 5
European Starling - 30,057 ave.
N. Cardinal - 110 Low ave. 189

Am. Tree Sparrow - 197 Low ave. 381
Song Sparrow - 12 Low ave. 24
Swamp Sparrow - 1 (Q)
White-thr. Sparrow - 36 Low ave. 103
Dark-eyed Junco - 169 Ave.
Red-w. Blackbird - 45 (G,H)

Br.-headed Cowbird - 29 (G,H) Low ave. 73
Purple Finch - 1 (G)
House Finch - 623 High max. 515
Am. Goldfinch - 118 Low ave. 157
Evening Grosbeak - 60 (H)
House Sparrow - 1756

Compiler - William Bogacki

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the following new Associate Member:

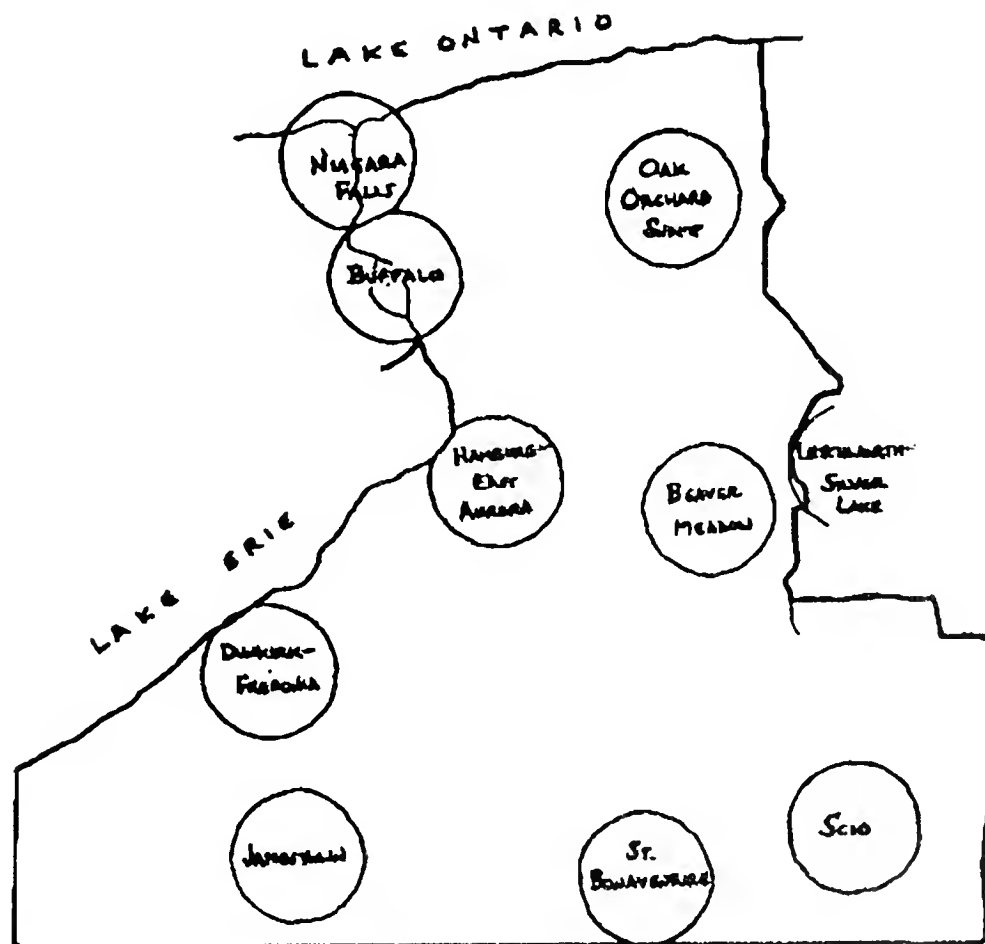
Earlene Powell
366 Elmwood Ave
Apt 622
Buffalo, NY 14222
Tel. 885-5208

Christmas Counts in Western New York State

Following this brief note are preliminary summaries of the nine 1991 Christmas Bird Counts that were tabulated in the Buffalo Ornithological Society region. (This information was compiled for the *Kingbird* regional report which only includes New York State.) Next year an attempt will be made to include all of the counts in the B.O.S. region in a similar report, specifically to include the St. Catharines and Port Coburn Canadian reports as well as the Canadian sections of the Buffalo and Niagara Falls reports. (Note that the latter is included in the Buffalo Christmas Census report in this issue.)

The map below indicates to approximate scale the regions covered by the nine reports and includes as well the Letchworth-Silver Lake count circle that overlaps this region in such a small way that it is not reasonable to sort out the species from it.

I found it especially interesting to find that many species never recorded on the Buffalo count are recorded regularly on others. In all, nine species were recorded on this year's counts that have never been seen in the Buffalo count circle. Those species are: Snow Goose, Turkey Vulture, Wild Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, Eastern Bluebird, American Pipit, Bohemian Waxwing, and Chipping Sparrow. Of course some of those are very rare birds in winter anywhere in this region: Turkey Vulture (although they have begun to winter in Letchworth State Park), American Pipit, and Chipping Sparrow. Of course the rather common Wild Turkey and Pileated Woodpecker are birds of more rural areas and would be unusual in this largely metropolitan circle. But bluebirds? It seems quite remarkable that they have not been reported in 63 Buffalo Christmas Censuses. — G. Rising



1991 Western New York Christmas Censuses

	Beaver		Dunk-	James	Hamb-	Niagara	Oak Or		St.		N
	Mdw	Buffalo	Fred	town	E Aur	Falls	Swamp	Scio	Bona		C
Date	Dec 28	Dec 15	Dec 29	Dec 15	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 27	Dec 21	Dec 14	TOT	/9
Common Loon		7			1	1				9	3
Pied-billed Grebe		2	1	16				2		21	4
Horned Grebe		3								3	1
Red-necked Grebe						1				1	1
Eared Grebe		1								1	1
Double-cr. Cormorant		3								3	1
Great Blue Heron	4	39	1	4	2		17	1	1	69	8
Tundra Swan		37		16						53	2
Snow Goose			1				3			4	2
Canada Goose		2065	475	1344	32	119	73	2	116	4226	8
Wood Duck		1		27					4	32	3
Green-winged Teal				2						2	1
American Black Duck		129	36	27	23		41	13	7	276	7
Mallard	11	2969	289	758	326	6	261	49	129	4798	9
Mallard hybrid			20							20	1
Northern Shoveler				12						12	1
Gadwall		121		34		1				156	3
American Wigeon		40								40	1
Canvasback		8464	1			1				8466	3
Redhead		104	1			2				107	3
Ring-necked Duck		16		7						23	2
Greater Scaup		1729	6		23	633				2391	4
Lesser Scaup		14	2	112		3				131	4
scaup species						9				9	1
Oldsquaw						250				250	1
White-winged Scoter						242				242	1
Common Goldeneye		1776	6	26	19	327				2154	5
Bufflehead		397	24	51	5	37				514	5
Hooded Merganser		16		296				6	6	324	4
Common Merganser		568	2	41	34	1145			6	1796	6
Red-br. Merganser		61	2	1		14				78	4
Ruddy Duck				11						11	1
duck species						23				23	1
Turkey Vulture				1						1	1
Bald Eagle				1						1	1
Northern Harrier	1		2			4	5			12	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	3	3	2	8	1	7	1		29	8
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	4	6	4	2	11			30	7
Northern Goshawk	1			1				2		4	3
accipiter species	3					1				4	2
Red-shouldered Hawk			1							1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	43	49	15	16	49	30	91	12	6	311	9
Rough-legged Hawk		1		7		2	1	3	1	15	6
buteo species	1									1	1
American Kestrel	8	19	5	5	9	27	49	4	1	127	9
hawk species			1							1	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	7	1			1	7	21			37	5
Ruffed Grouse	30			3	1			6	2	42	5
Wild Turkey	148			12	18		15	58	42	293	6
American Coot		12	97	278						387	3
Killdeer				3						3	1
Common Snipe				3						3	1

1991 Western New York Christmas Censuses

	Beaver		Dunk-	James	Hamb-	Niagara	Oak Or		St.		N
	Mdw	Buffalo	Fred	town	E Aur	Falls	Swamp	Scio	Bona		C
Date	Dec 28	Dec 15	Dec 29	Dec 15	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 27	Dec 21	Dec 14	TOT	/9
Little Gull		2				3				5	2
Bonaparte's Gull		12203	354		5	287				12849	4
Ring-billed Gull		14634	10553	1211	215	2275	4	286	1	29179	8
Herring Gull		15164	66	9	26	852		48		16165	6
Glaucous Gull		1			1					2	2
Great Bl.-backed Gull		657	69		7	38				771	4
Bl.-leg. Kittiwake		2								2	1
gull species						246				246	1
Common Tern		1								1	1
Rock Dove	955	1621	216	1128	664	364	414	91	537	5990	9
Mourning Dove	420	151	339	577	412	247	979	241	72	3438	9
Eastern Screech-Owl	6	6		2	3	3	11	2		33	7
Great Horned Owl	14	5	2	1	1	3	22	2		50	8
Barred Owl	9		1							10	2
Long-eared Owl						2				2	1
Short-eared Owl	9			1		2	7			19	4
N. Saw-whet Owl		1								1	1
Belted Kingfisher		5	2	1	2		1	9	3	23	7
Red-bell. Woodpecker	7	3			3	5	16	1		35	6
Downy Woodpecker	92	43	37	60	102	11	72	37	3	457	9
Hairy Woodpecker	29	7	2	24	38	4	16	5	2	127	9
Northern Flicker	4	7	6	3	16	16	10	1	4	67	9
Pileated Woodpecker	8		1	1	9		5	4	2	30	7
Horned Lark					63		484	45		592	3
Blue Jay	367	139	132	309	246	75	186	145	63	1662	9
American Crow	637	518	284	679	938	129	342	532	248	4307	9
Common Raven									1	1	1
Bl.-capped Chickadee	877	256	42	753	984	94	507	323	112	3948	9
Tufted Titmouse	7	2	10	7	42	4	2	13	4	91	9
Red-breasted Nuthatch	21	5		3	16	1		10	7	63	7
Wh.-breasted Nuthatch	69	24	21	78	61	8	72	23	9	365	9
nuthatch species						1				1	1
Brown Creeper	12	7		6	5		6		1	37	6
Carolina Wren		1	1	8	2				2	14	5
Winter Wren		1								1	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	35	31		2	26	2		5	2	103	7
Eastern Bluebird			3			22	12			37	3
American Robin	22	28	101	1	46	4	111	12		325	8
Gray Catbird					1					1	1
Northern Mockingbird		2			2	11				15	3
Am. Pipit				1						1	1
Bohem. Waxwing						1				1	1
Cedar Waxwing	30	30	18	37	269	272	222	33	88	999	9
Northern Shrike	13	4		4	4	1	8			34	6
European Starling	2093	29000	569	1614	4134	5416	4917	308	1000	49051	9

1991 Western New York Christmas Censuses

	Beaver		Dunk-	James	Hamb-	Niagara	Oak Or		St.		N
	Mdw	Buffalo	Fred	town	E Aur	Falls	Swamp	Scio	Bona		C
Date	Dec 28	Dec 15	Dec 29	Dec 15	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 27	Dec 21	Dec 14	TOT	/9
Northern Cardinal	69	68	37	114	226	30	87	40	17	688	9
Rufous-sided Towhee					1					1	1
Am. Tree Sparrow	289	123	104	229	286	67	587	103	10	1798	9
Chipping Sparrow					12					12	1
Field Sparrow	1									1	1
Fox Sparrow				1						1	1
Song Sparrow	6	6	6	15	39	2	17	2		93	8
Swamp Sparrow		1		2	1		4	2		10	5
White-thr. Sparrow	2	17	19	23	48	14	17	16	10	166	9
White-cr. Sparrow						4		7		11	2
Dark-eyed Junco	244	98	110	539	439	63	234	270	45	2042	9
Lapland Longspur	2						9			11	2
Snow Bunting	122		3		53	47	347			572	5
Red-winged Blackbird	1	45		5	3		7			61	5
Rusty Blackbird				4	1					5	2
Common Grackle			25	10					41	76	3
Br.-headed Cowbird	6	29		43		1	9		10	98	6
Pine Grosbeak						1				1	1
Purple Finch		1		2	24			51	21	99	5
House Finch	235	529	567	884	874	211	1007	356	231	4894	9
Wh.-winged Crossbill	4									4	1
Common Redpoll							30			30	1
Pine Siskin	5			8	5			6		24	4
American Goldfinch	165	89	18	143	159	31	187	78	31	901	9
Evening Grosbeak	36	60		4	2			72	9	183	6
House Sparrow	1018	1370	302	528	1183	603	1210	140	242	6596	9
Total Species	50	76	54	74	64	63	51	49	43	115	
Total Individuals	8203	95646	15015	12197	12254	14361	12773	3478	3149	177076	
No. of Observers			18	15	62	18	16	35	16	180	
Additional Birds Seen During Count Week Not Already Listed											
Greater White-fronted Goose, Jamestown; Lesser Black-backed Gull, Dunkirk-Fredonia; Snowy Owl, Dunkirk-Fredonia;											
Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dunkirk-Fredonia; Eastern Meadowlark, Dunkirk-Fredonia											
Compilers											
Beaver Meadow: David Junkin, 3071 Pee Dee Road, Bliss, NY 14024. 457-3228											
Buffalo: Bill Bogacki, 70 Louise Drive, Cheektowaga, NY 14227. 674-5781											
Dunkirk-Fredonia: Kathy Souter, 12 Adam Street, Silver Creek, NY 14136. 934-7258											
Jamestown: Bob Sundell, 19 Chestnut Street, Jamestown, NY 14701. 484-2197											
Hamburg-East Aurora: Paul Lazarus, 78 Belmont Place, Williamsville, NY 14221. 633-4185											
Niagara Falls: Willy D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Ext., Niagara Falls, NY 14304. 731-4348											
Oak Orchard Swamp: Gail Seamans, P. O. Box 157, East Pembroke, NY 14056. 762-9211											
Scio: Elizabeth Brooks, 1435 Waterwells Road, Alfred Station, NY 14803. 607-587-9571											
St. Bonaventure: Ms Regina VanScoy, R.D. 1, Box 153, Limestone, NY 14753. 925-7109											

BOS MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

NOTICE: Cancellations due to weather conditions will be aired on the following radio stations: WGR 550 and WBEN 930.

FIELD TRIPS

- Feb. 23: Sunday. Canadian Owl trip. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Vermont and Busti or at 9:15 a.m. at the first parking lot on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leaders: Blayne Farnan (1-416-834-7541) and Dick Byron (662-4783).
- Mar. 21: SATURDAY not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara County. Meet in Wright's Corners (north of Lockport) on Hwy 78 at the Top's Market at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Willie D'Anna (1-731-4348).
- Mar. 29: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for spring waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World 0.1 mi. east of Main and Transit. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297).
- Apr. 12: Sunday. B.O.S. April Bird Count.
- Apr. 18: SATURDAY not Sunday. Hawk migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Howard Johnson parking lot in Niagara Falls where I-190 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Rt. 62), or go directly to Beamer Conservation Area. This is 30 miles into Canada on the escarpment above Grimsby.
- Apr. 26: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World 0.1 mi. east of Main and Transit. We will join the GOS at the Braddock Bay Park Shelter. Leaders: Mike Zebehazy (662-6987) and Bob Spahn (GOS).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Buffalo Museum of Science

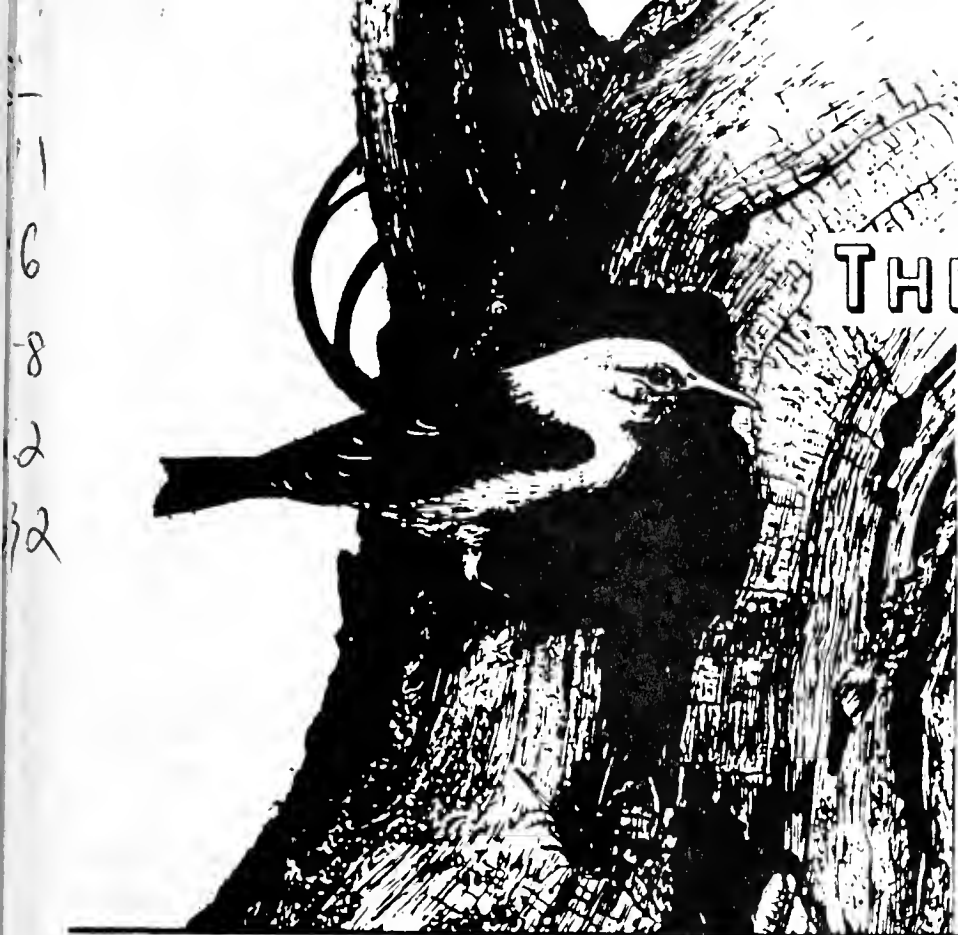
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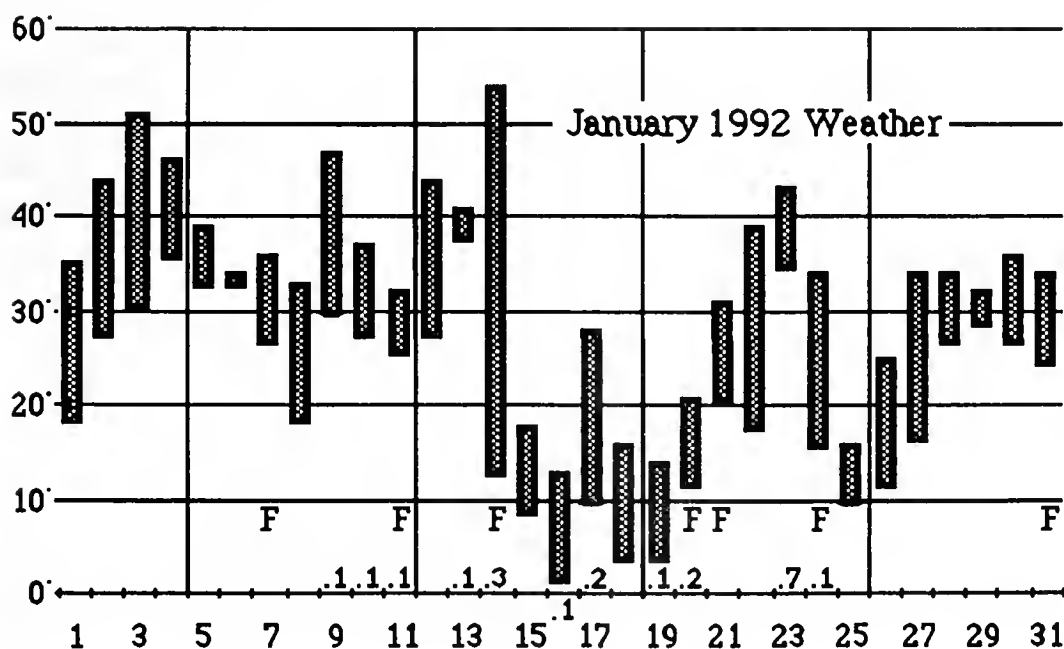
Volume 58

February 1992

Number 2

THE MONTH: January 1992

In 1991, ten of the twelve months had above average temperatures. In particular, the first half of 1991 was especially warm with the degrees above average for the successive months: 3, 6, 5, 5, 8, and 3. With December 1991 2.5° above average and this month 3.6° above average, we seem ready to embark again on a warm year, not good news for local towns with already low water tables.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 4th was a Saturday, the 5th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

reading since 1978. The 14th itself was a particularly uncomfortable day with wind gusting to 45 mph and with snow and ice pellets driving in out of the west. And the week following was not much better.

The actual temperature average for January of 27.1° , was much influenced, as the chart shows, by high temperatures early in the month. Through the first two weeks the average temperature was over 6° still higher.

The 2.0 inches of precipitation was also below normal, this by about an inch. The only major daily total, 0.7 inch, fell on the 23rd as rain, so snowfall was also well below normal for the month. That snow totalled 18.4 inches, about 7 inches below normal, but the winter total of snow by the end of the month, 58 inches, was near normal. (That is, in fact, more than fell in the entire 1991 winter.)

Following the front on the 14th was a record low pressure system, the local barometer reading falling to a low below 29 inches that is a record

Let us examine four categories of records as they compare with the six years from 1986 to 1991: rarities, waterfowl on the annual count, winter visitors, and half-hardies.

Rarities. An unverified Red-throated Loon was noted at Niagara-on-the-Lake on the 13th. It would have been only the second January record in these seven years, the only other on January 1, 1989 (within its normal date span). The American White Pelicans remained in Jordan Harbor until at least January 14th. Did they then leave or die? In any case this remains, to my best knowledge, the first winter record of this species in our territory. The Buffalo Harbor Mute Swan suddenly finds itself one of many. There were at least three and may have been as many as a half dozen additional birds of this species in the region in January. January Snow Geese are becoming regular: this is the sixth year in a row they have been reported. The Brant found this year, on the other hand have been recorded in only two of the previous six years. In addition to the verified Brant, an unverified bird was seen in Grimsby on the 5th.

Three good hawk records included over seven years the fourth Northern Goshawk, the fourth year for Red-shouldered Hawk, and the second (in succession) for Merlin. The last appears to be the same bird as last year, the UB Merlin, seen both years at the Bailey Avenue end of the Main Street university campus. A second Merlin in St. Catherine's on the 5th is unverified.

No January Purple Sandpipers this year (5 of 6 previous years), but several Common Snipe (3 of 6). Bellerby's gull counts show the usual January decline in Bonaparte's Gull as the birds move west and other gull numbers appear normal with only the unverified Common Black-headed Gull which stayed through the month in Niagara-on-the-Lake unusual.

After one Great Gray Owl was found in Warren, Pennsylvania a few days earlier, another of these spectacular birds turned up near the Jamestown airport on the 29th. First confirmed by Bob Sundell two days later and the word passed on, the bird was observed by many western New Yorkers in February.

Land birds included two Winter Wrens found on the 4th and 5th (4 of 7 years), two Hermit Thrushes (3 of 7), two Gray Catbirds (3 of 7), an Ovenbird (1 of 7), a Rose-breasted Grosbeak (2 of 7), and a Rufous-sided Towhee (5 of 7). Mr. Warner of Boston, who reported that the Rose-breasted Grosbeak had been at his feeder since long before Christmas now indicates that the bird disappeared during the storm of the 12th and has not been seen since.

Waterfowl. The January 12 Waterfowl Count produced mixed results. Overall numbers are down 11% from the average of the prior six years. Of most concern is the 44% decline from last year in diving ducks, but the number found is not far from the average of the five years before that high. Dabbling ducks are holding their own, with of course the ubiquitous Mallard leading the way. In the same way Canada Geese keep the numbers of swans and geese high. The 100 American Coots found double the average of the six earlier years.

Winter visitors. Here is a comparison with the previous six years:

Species	1992 Max	1986-1992	Comments
Rough-legged Hawk	9	5 of 6	about average
Purple Sandpiper	none	5 of 6	
Snowy Owl	11	5 of 6	spectacular numbers and distribution
Great Gray Owl	(1)	0 of 6	(verification not yet submitted)
Long-eared Owl	1	5 of 6	
Short-eared Owl	12	6 of 6	about average
Bohemian Waxwing	none	1 of 6	
Northern Shrike	9 reports	6 of 6	about average
Lapland Longspur	4	4 of 6	about average
Snow Bunting	50	6 of 6	well below average
Pine Grosbeak	1	2 of 6	
Red Crossbill	(1)	0 of 6	(verification not yet submitted)
White-winged Crossbill	none	3 of 6	
Common Redpoll	none	4 of 6	
Pine Siskin	26	6 of 6	low numbers
Evening Grosbeak	31	6 of 6	continuing low numbers

Except for the Snowy and Great Gray Owls, this does not represent an especially exciting year. I find it quite remarkable that none of the Common Redpolls that passed through the region earlier in the winter have been found either staying or returning north.

Half-hardies. Here again is a comparison with the previous six years:

Species	1992	Max	1986-1992	Comments
Pied-billed Grebe	16		6 of 6	
Great Blue Heron	28		5 of 6	down from 46 last January
Black-crowned Night Heron	none		3 of 6	
Wood Duck	2		6 of 6	
Blue-winged Teal	(1)		1 of 6	(verification not yet submitted)
Northern Shoveler	1		3 of 6	
American Widgeon	29		6 of 6	2nd to 37 in 1987
Ring-necked Duck	65		6 of 6	previous high 15
Hooded Merganser	25		6 of 6	previous high 19
Ruddy Duck	none		3 of 6	
Red-shouldered Hawk	4		3 of 6	
Killdeer	none		2 of 6	
Dunlin	none		3 of 6	
Common Snipe	3		3 of 6	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1		2 of 6	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		3 of 6	
Tufted Titmouse	10 reports		6 of 6	appears to be increasing
Brown Creeper	2		5 of 6	
Carolina Wren	11 reports		6 of 6	appears to be increasing
Winter Wren	2		3 of 6	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3		5 of 6	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	none		1 of 6	
Eastern Bluebird	8		4 of 6	
Hermit Thrush	2		2 of 6	
American Robin	350		6 of 6	appears to be increasing
Gray Catbird	2		2 of 6	
Northern Mockingbird	2		6 of 6	continuing good numbers
Brown Thrasher	none		1 of 6	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1		4 of 6	
Pine Warbler	none		1 of 6	
Palm Warbler	none		1 of 6	
Ovenbird	1		0 of 6	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1		1 of 6	
Dickcissel	none		1 of 6	
Rufous-sided Towhee	1		4 of 6	
Chipping Sparrow	none		1 of 6	
Field Sparrow	none		3 of 6	
Swamp Sparrow	1		4 of 6	
White-throated Sparrow	14		5 of 6	
White-crowned Sparrow	2		4 of 6	
Red-winged Blackbird	8		6 of 6	about average
Eastern Meadowlark	2		2 of 6	
Rusty Blackbird	19		3 of 6	
Common Grackle	none		4 of 6	
Brown-headed Cowbird	18		6 of 6	well below average

As is always the case with half-hardies, this is a mixed bag. The remarkable series of mild winters seems to be causing an increase in the numbers of overwintering birds of a few species like Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, and American Robin, and increasing at the same time the number of oddities like this year's Ovenbird. We will have to wait and see what happens when we get an especially harsh early winter. Then even the feeding stations might not serve to stave off death for many of these birds that normally migrate out of this area. — G. Rising

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	Watson, Collins et al
"	1	1	Evans Twp	D'Anna et al
Pied-billed Grebe	1-25	1-16	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory, Watson et al
"	19,25,29	2,2,1	Tonawanda Twp	Watson,Thill,Andrie
Horned Grebe	1	54	Sturgeon Pt-Dunkirk Harb.	D'Anna et al
"	4	3	Carleton Twp	D'Anna
Red-necked Grebe	1	1	Hanover Twp	D'Anna et al
<u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	1,4	2	Jordan Harbor, Ont.	Collins,Watson,Rising
D.-crest. Cormorant	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Collins et al
"	1	3	Buffalo	Rew et al
"	5	2	Port Weller, Ont.	Bellerby
"	5-29	3-7	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
"	19	7	North Tonawanda	Thill, Andrie
Great Blue Heron	5,29	28,13	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Tundra Swan	15-31	2-7	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
<u>Mute Swan</u>	1	1	Buffalo Harbor	Rew et al
"	1,5	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo	Watson, Collins et al
"	5	2	St. Catharines, Ont.	Bellerby
"	22	3	Niagara River, Ont.	Holmes et al
Snow Goose	<u>1,25</u>	1,2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson,Collins,D'Anna
"	<u>11</u>	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	<u>12,22,25</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew et al
Brant	<u>1</u>	6	Fort Erie, Ont.	Collins, Rising et al
Green-winged Teal	1,22	1,1	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna, Rew et al
Northern Pintail	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson et al
"	18-20,25	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory, Watson et al
"	19	1	Amity Twp	Pitzrick et al
Gadwall	1	33	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson et al
Redhead	1	218	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson, Collins et al
"	19	8	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory
Ring-necked Duck	1	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo	Watson et al
"	1	8	Buffalo Harbor	Rew et al
"	11	<u>59</u>	Lewiston Reservoir	Flory, Goetz
"	26	1	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
Lesser Scaup	19	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Flory
"	26	6	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
Black Scoter	1	1	Evans Twp	D'Anna et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
White-winged Scoter	13	150	Niag.-on-Lake	Bellerby
Hooded Merganser	1	9	Buffalo	Andrle
"	1	10	Buffalo Harbor	Rew et al
"	19	1	Amity Twp	Pitzrick et al
"	29	5	Tonawanda Twp	Watson
Bald Eagle	25-31	1 imm.	Lyndonville	Schnell et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	1-27	13 reports	E & W of Dunkirk	
Cooper's Hawk	1-28	15 reports	throughout WNY	
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	5	1 ad.	Stockton Twp	Rew, Buck
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>5,26</u>	1 ad.	Amity Twp	M & V Pitzrick
Rough-legged Hawk	1	5	So. Dayton Twp	R & C Budniewski
"	1	4	Gerry Twp	Sundell
"	4	8	Sommerset-Carleton	D'Anna
"	1-26	9 reports	throughout WNY	
<u>Merlin</u>	13	1	Buffalo	Suggs
"	21,24	1	Buffalo	Schopp
"	22	1	East Aurora	Holmes, Ruhl
Ring-necked Pheasant	20	24	Yates Twp	Suggs, Watson et al
American Coot	1,12	110,93	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna, Rew et al
Common Snipe	<u>19,28</u>	3,2	Amity Twp	M & V Pitzrick
Little Gull	10,31	1,2	Niag.-on-Lake	Bellerby
"	22	1	Niagara River, Ont.	Holmes et al
Bonaparte's Gull	10,31	8050,485	Niag.-on-Lake	Bellerby
Iceland Gull	1	1	Tonawanda Twp	D'Anna
"	1,2,4	1,2,1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	many observers
"	3-12	1-2	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
L. Black-b. Gull	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson, Collins et al
<u>L. Black-b. Gull</u>	3	2 ad.	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
Glaucous Gull	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Rew et al
"	1-5	1-4	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
"	10	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Bellerby
"	27	1	Goat Island	Watson
Mouring Dove	26	200	Sommerset Twp	Collins et al
Snowy Owl	1	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Watson et al
"	1,22,25	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Many observers
"	1,4	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Collins, Rew et al
"	1,4	<u>8,10</u>	Buffalo	D'Anna, Collins et a
"	11,26	1	Wheatfield Twp	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	22,26	1	Tonawanda Twp	Hess, Thill
Long-eared Owl	26	1	Porter Twp	D'Anna et al
Short-eared Owl	1,20	1,3	Porter Twp	Collins, D'Anna et al
"	8,15	3,3	Darien	Wolfling
"	12	1	Arkwright Twp	Budniewski
"	20,21,25	6,10,12	Sheridan Twp	Budniewski, Rew et al
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	4	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	1-31	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	4	6	Somerset to Carleton	D'Anna
"	29	1	Jamestown	Sundell
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1	1	Lake Erie SP	Flory, Collins et al
Horned Lark	20,26	120,137	Cambria Twp	D'Anna, Collins et al
<u>E. a. alpestris</u>	26	24	Pomfret Twp	Rew, Buck
<u>E. a. praticola</u>	26	6	Pomfret Twp	Rew, Buck
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	10 reports	throughout region	

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Carolina Wren	1-23	11 reports	throughout region	
Winter Wren	4	1	Beaver Island SP	Chilton
"	5	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Eastern Bluebird	3	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	4,8	1,1	Amity Lake	V & M Pitzrick
"	5	2	Amity Twp	M. Pitzrick
"	12	7	Elma Twp	Collins
"	21,22	4,3	Sheridan Twp	R & C Budniewski
"	26	8	Wilson Twp	D & D Suggs
"	30	2	Perrysburg Twp	Chilton
Hermit Thrush	1	1	Dunkirk	Collins, Rising
"	26,29	1,1	Porter Twp	D'Anna, Watson et al
American Robin	5	70	Lake Erie SP	Flory
"	20	<u>350</u>	Somerset Twp	Watson et al
"	29	98	Porter Twp	Watson
"	30	72	Brocton	Budniewski
Gray Catbird	3,7,8,25	1,1,1,1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	20	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
Cedar Waxwing	10	210	Hamburg Twp	Andrle, Rew
Northern Shrike	1-29	9 reports	throughout region	
Yellow-r. Warbler	1	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	Rew et al
Ovenbird	<u>15,16</u>	1	Cheektowaga(f)	Burch et al
Rose-br. Grosbeak	4	1	Boston Twp	Watson et al
Rufous-s. Towhee	26	1	Elma Twp	DiDomenico
Swamp Sparrow	12	1	East Aurora	Holmes
White-thr. Sparrow	26	14	Pomfret Twp (f)	Rew, Buck
White-cr. Sparrow	11	1	Porter Twp	D'Anna et al
"	20	1	Lewiston Twp (f)	Watson et al
Lapland Longspur	20,26	3-4,2	Cambria Twp	D'Anna, Collins et al
Snow Bunting	18,25	40,50	Pomfret Twp	Flory, Goetz
"	20	20	Cambria Twp	D'Anna et al
Red-w. Blackbird	5	3	Tifft NP	Watson
"	14-31	1-7	Fort Erie, Ont.	Sommerville
"	21	11	Tonawanda	Watson
"	26	8	Wainfleet Twp, Ont.	Watson
Eastern Meadowlark	25	2	Sheridan Twp	Watson, Collins et al
Rusty Blackbird	26	19	Wainfleet Twp, Ont.	Watson
Brown-headed Cowbird	2-31	2-18	Kenmore (f)	Thills
"	5,21	7,14	Tonawanda Twp	Watson, Hess
"	26	18	Wainfleet Twp, Ont.	Watson
Pine Grosbeak	26	1	Porter Twp	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Purple Finch	21-31	1-2	Amity Lake	V & M Pitzrick
"	31	4	Alfred Twp	Brooks
Pine Siskin	12	1	Bliss	D & M Junkin
"	17-31	26 banded	Alfred Twp	Brooks
American Goldfinch	1-31	25	Wales (f)	O. Rosche
"	28	23	Amity Twp	M. Pitzrick
Evening Grosbeak	1	16	Cherry Creek Twp	R & C Budniewski
"	1,11,16	3,2,1	Amity Lake	V & M Pitzrick
"	4	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	8	9	Franklinville Twp	Chilton
"	10-31	31 max	Bliss	D & M Junkin

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	114
Total for year.	114

Other species observed in January: Canada Goose, Am. Black Duck, Mallard, Am. Wigeon, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Am. Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Bl.-backed Gull, Rock Dove, E. Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, N. Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Am. Crow, Bl.-capped Chickadee, Red-br. Nuthatch, White-br. Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-cr. Kinglet, N. Mockingbird, European Starling, N. Cardinal, AM. Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch, House Sparrow.

The Mildred Baker McVey Inheritance

by Joseph DiDomenico

Last September, the Society was informed that it was the recipient of \$14,562.09 from the Estate of Mildred Baker McVey. She was a former member who moved out of the area and upon her death left nearly \$1.5 million to various nature-oriented organizations around the country.

Since we received this money, there have been a number of discussions about how to best utilize this gift. At recent meetings (Jan. 22nd and Feb. 12th), a number of proposals were offered by members in this regard. These proposals ranged from the establishment of a "Research Fund" to providing money for member research projects, specific expenditures for item such as a tripod for Tiff N.P. and the purchase of CB radios for communication on field trips, as well as a request from Wayne Gall to contribute a portion to the William C. Vaughan Memorial Fund at the Museum of Science.

However, a number of problems have been identified. One, it is very difficult to discuss proposals unless they are specific and in writing. Second, we need to provide enough time to allow as much member input as is possible. Third, to establish a timetable and process whereby we could reach a decision in a timely manner.

As a result, the members present at the Feb. 12th meeting of the BOS reached a number of decisions. These were summarized in a motion by Bob Brock and approved by those members present. They are as follows:

1. Any member who wishes to make a specific proposal(s) in regard to the use of these funds shall submit his/her proposal(s) **in writing** to the President by April 1, 1992.
2. All **written** proposals shall then be submitted to the Council, which will prepare a written framework for the handling of the inheritance which reflects the suggestions of the members. The Council (or a subcommittee) will complete its work and submit it to the **Prothonotary** for publication in the April, 1992 issue.
3. The proposals will then be presented for discussion at both the May 13th and May 27th meetings of the BOS.
4. A vote of the members present at the May 27th meeting will be taken on the various proposals so as to reach a decision on this matter.

I would like to make a few comments and observations at this time.

The opportunity that this gift has given us is one that may never be duplicated! How we decide to use these funds may have a significant impact on the future direction of the Society. I hope that as many members as possible will actively participate in this process. Over the last year or so, the average attendance at our meetings has been around 35 members. If you consider that we currently have slightly more than 200 members, this represents less than 20% of our membership. If you have any feelings or opinions about this gift, then please make it your business to send in proposals, to attend the May meetings, and to make your feelings known!

Finally, let us remember that each of us should be open to the ideas and opinions of our fellow members and although we may not all agree, I would hope that we keep the best interests of the Society as our primary goal and objective.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Buffalo Harbor/ Niagara River January 4, 1992

"Not Another Snowy Owl" Normally a sought after species, we had spotted our sixth snowy owl on a far off slag pile on just our second stop of the trip. This one was just a white speck compare to the breathtaking view we had through the Questar of one at about 100 feet.

About twenty BOS members and guests assembled at 8:00 am at the Peace Bridge for what turned out to be a successful trip. The weather was more spring like than early January. At our first stop at LaSalle Park we got the old stand-by Mute Swan, a female Ring-necked Duck and a beautiful male Hooded Merganser.

Our second stop was at the Small Boat Harbor. Several huge flocks of gulls proved unexciting as we could not find any of the rarer gulls seen the previous day. Six Snowy Owls made up for the disappointment and a distant probable Iceland Gull was seen by a few as was a fly-by Sharp-shinned Hawk as we left.

After crossing the Peace Bridge, we proceeded down the Niagara to the water control gates above the falls where we found our first real concentration of ducks. A lone Redhead and at least two Lesser Scaup were the highlights and the Snowy Owl count was boosted to seven. A little farther down the river we had a nice look at a second year Glaucous Gull and some of us picked up an immature Lesser Black-backed Gull in the rapids. At our pit stop at the greenhouse above the falls, we added a few passerines but decided not to list the Green Honeycreeper seen inside. I didn't think Fran and Bob would buy the writeup.

At Adam Beck we added a second year Iceland Gull and an adult Thayers Gull (if there is such a bird). Our last stop was at Jordan Harbor, Ontario where a pair of American White Pelicans huddled on the ice along with another Iceland Gull and a Northern Mockingbird, definitely an odd trio. All totalled we had 42 species seen by the group.

As I drove home after dropping riders off at the bridge I decided to find out how many Snowy Owls were really on the waterfront. The six came too easy earlier in the day. With daylight diminishing I did a quick tour of the waterfront starting at the Erie Basin and ending at the Small Boat Harbor. I counted 10 different birds. To further satisfy my curiosity I pulled two Glaucous Gulls and an adult Lesser Black-backed out of the flock that had disappointed us earlier.

Dick Collins

Report of the January 1992 Federation Waterfowl Count

Summarized below are the results of the Thirty-eighth Waterfowl Count in Region 1 of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. The count was scheduled for the period January 11th, 1992 through January 19th. January 12th was selected as the target date.

Results of the counts in all regions of the Federation will summarized in the *Kingbird*.

Compiler, Wavel Barber

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Common Loon	3	Above Average
Pied-billed Grebe	7	Above Average
Double-crested Cormorant	7	Highest in 20 years
Tundra Swan	5	4 th Highest in 20 years
Snow Goose	1	7 th Time Recorded
Canada Goose	2229	3 rd Highest is 38 years
Wood Duck	2	Average Count for 25 years
Amer. Black Duck	383	13 th Lowest in 38 years
Mallard	6105	2 nd Highest in 38 years
Gadwall	14	Average 38 years
American Wigeon	29	Way Below Average
Canvasback	3273	21 st Lowest in 38 Years
Redhead	15	3 rd Lowest in 39 years
Ring-necked Duck	65	Highest in 38 years
Greater Scaup	127	<u>Way Below Average</u>
Lesser Scaup	38	<u>Way Below Average</u>
Oldsquaw	2555	Below Average
White-winged Scoter	15	Average
Common Goldeneye	2401	4 th Lowest in 38 Years
Bufflehead	209	Average
Hooded Merganser	25	Highest in 38 Years
Common Merganser	2458	7 th Lowest in 30 years
Red-breasted Merganser	11	2 nd Lowest in 38 years
American Coot	100	Highest in 38 years
Unidentified	13	
Total	20090	
Species	24	

<u>Area</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Area Covered</u>
A	Wavel Barber	1/11/92	Lake Ontario-Pt. Breeze to Olcott
B	Walter Klabunde	1/12/92	Lake Ontario-Olcott to Ft. Niagara
C	Willie D'Anna	1/12/92	Ft. Niagara to base of Falls, Lewiston Reservoir
D	Mike Zebehazy	1/15/92	Niagara-on-the-Lake to base of Horseshoe Falls, Ont.
E	Joe Thill	1/19/92	Buffalo, North Harbor to Goat Is., Niagara Falls, NY
F	Don Roberson	1/19/92	Peace Bridge to rim of Horseshoe Falls, Canadian side
G	Karen Renning	1/12/92	Grand Island
H	Davis Suggs	1/11/92	Lake Erie-Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek
I	Fran Rew	1/12/92	Lake Erie-Silver Creek to Penn. State Line
J	Robert Sundell	1/15/92	Jamestown and Chautauqua
K	Steve Eaton	1/11/92	Olean, Salamanca
L	Lou Burton	1/12/92	Allegany County
M	Gail Seamans	1/12/92	Batavia
N	Don Endress	1/12/92	Oak Orchard WMA & Tonawanda WMA
O	Sharon Sisti	1/12/92	Iroquois NWR
P	Bill Burch	1/18/92	Clarence, Amherst & Cheektowaga
Q	Ellen Schopp	1/12/92	Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery Bflo
R	Charles Halvorsen	1/12/92	South Park, Cazenovia Park Bflo

Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	TOTAL
Common Loon		3																	3
Pied-billed Grebe					2				4			1							7
Double-crested Cormorant					7														7
Tundra Swan					5														5
Snow Goose									1										1
Canada Goose	1			4		1229	65	27	610	4	135	150		4					2229
Wood Duck																2			2
Amer. Black Duck	8		82	1	17	45			66	2	34	7	20	25		48	28		383
Mallard	54		59	68	859	240	92	241	318	53	4	55	236	920		2231	628	47	6105
Gadwall					1	6		5								2			14
American Wigeon			21	2	1	4					1								29
Canvasback		11	6	3	354	380	2500	15	1	3									3273
Redhead					2	11			2										15
Ring-necked Duck	59		1	1	1				2	1									65
Greater Scaup	11		4	2	8	23	76	1		2									127
Lesser Scaup			1		34	3													38
Oldsquaw		5	1050	1500															2555
White-winged Scoter			13	1						1									15
Common Goldeneye	34	423	103	45	380	1004	295	76	28	13									2401
Bufflehead	13	19	1	4	29	55	5	47	32	4									209
Hooded Merganser	1	1	17		3	1		2											25
Common Merganser		302	354		5	1726	15	40	2	1		13							2458
Red-breasted Merganser	2		5			4													11
American Coot			4	3					93										100
Unidentified																13			13
	112	835	1721	1634	1708	4731	3048	454	1159	84	174	226	256	949	0	2296	656	47	20090

1992 Federation of NYS Bird Clubs - Waterfowl Count
Totals by Area

The New York State Avian Records Committee

This Committee was created by the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs at its 1977 meeting to review ornithological reports of exceptional interest made within the state. The Committee (NYSARC) has established the following procedures for submitting reports. A standard reporting form is available from member clubs and from members of NYSARC. Copies of original field notes are valuable supplements to the standard form. Use of the standard form is not mandatory. Any other form or format (on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper) that conveys the information requested on the standard form will be acceptable to the NYSARC. Photographs, if available, should be submitted with reports. If other evidence, such as specimens or tape recordings, exists, please indicate where it may be examined. Reports submitted to NYSARC become the property of the Federation. Reports will be permanently deposited and made available to qualified investigators at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Other substantiating evidence submitted with reports (specimens or parts thereof) will be deposited in appropriate Cornell University collections, unless specifically requested otherwise. Reports should be submitted to:

The New York State Avian Records Committee
c/o Todd A. Culver
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

Note: the Buffalo Ornithological Society's Verification Form for Unusual Species may be used for submission to NYSARC, and members are encouraged to write up and submit reports.

The NYSARC will review reports of:

- 1) Any species new to New York State.
- 2) Any addition to the list of species proven to nest in New York State.
- 3) Any of the following species found anywhere within New York State:

Pacific Loon, Yellow-billed Loon, Western Grebe, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Black-capped Petrel, Mottled Petrel, Herald Petrel, Audubon's Shearwater, White-faced Storm - Petrel, Leach's Storm - Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Red-billed Tropicbird, Brown Booby, American White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, White Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Wood Stork, Fulvous Whistling - Duck, Ross' Goose, "Black" Brant (B. b. nigricans), Barnacle Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Smew, Black Vulture, American Swallow-tailed Kite, Black-shouldered Kite, Mississippi Kite, Swainson's Hawk, Gyrfalcon, Yellow Rail, Corn Crake, King Rail, Azure Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, Northern Lapwing, Wilson's Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Eskimo Curlew, Whimbrel (white-rumped races only), Eurasian Curlew, Long-billed Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Rufous-necked Stint, Little Stint, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Long-tailed Jaeger, Great Skua, South Polar Skua, Mew Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Ross' Gull, Ivory Gull, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Bridled Tern, Sooty Tern, White-winged Tern, Common Murre, Atlantic Puffin, White-winged Dove, Northern Hawk Owl, Burrowing Owl,

Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, Black-billed Magpie, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Bewick's Wren, Northern Wheatear, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Fieldfare, Redwing, Sage Thrasher, Bell's Vireo, "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (D. c. auduboni), Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Painted Redstart, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, "Spotted" Rufous-sided Towhee (P. e. maculatus), Bachman's Sparrow, Lark Bunting, Baird's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Brewer's Blackbird, "Bullock's" Northern Oriole (I. g. bullockii), Brambling, Hoary Redpoll

as well as the following species from localities away from downstate New York (Long Island and offshore waters, the New York City area; and established nesting areas on the lower Hudson River):

any species of albatross, shearwater, petrel, or storm - petrel, Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant, Tricolored Heron, Yellow-crowned Night - Heron; Tufted Duck, Common Eider, Black Rail, Clapper Rail, Purple Gallinule, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Black-necked Stilt, Marbled Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper, Gull-billed Tern, Royal Tern, Roseate Tern, Black Skimmer, any species of alcid, Chuck-will's Widow, Western Kingbird, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Lark Sparrow, "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow (P. s. princeps), Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Boat-tailed Grackle

the following species at localities away from the Adirondacks:

Spruce Grouse, Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay

and the following species for spring reports only:

Western Sandpiper (upstate New York only), Baird's Sandpiper, Sabine's Gull

- 4) Any reports of bird species seen at least four weeks before early arrivals or four weeks after late departures, as summarized in John Bull's Birds of New York State (1974) or the Supplement to Birds of New York State (1976).

The Committee follows boundaries of New York State as follows: inland and on the Great Lakes - national and state boundaries; and extend present legal marine boundaries outward to the 1000 fathom line (approximately 100 miles offshore). The south (west) boundary extends from the Ambrose Lightship along the Separation Zone of the Ambrose - Hudson Canyon Traffic Lane to the 1000 fathom line; the north (east) boundary extends at an angle of 150 degrees (from true north) from a point midway between the east end of Fisher's Island and Watch Hill, Rhode Island to the 1000 fathom line (reference: Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart 1108; Approaches to New York). The Hudson Sea Canyon (proper) lies just within the south boundary and Block Canyon is within the north boundary. Cox's Ledge is in Rhode Island waters.

Robert F. Andrie
Chairman
New York State Avian Records Comm.

Shrike Captures Cardinal by Vivian Pitzrick

That cloudy morning about 8:00, my Grandson, Michael Pitzrick called my attention to two birds which had alit in a big willow out front of our house here at Amity Lake, Belmont, NY. As we watched with binoculars, the lower bird finally started to fly over the lake, but immediately the upper bird darted after it, striking it repeatedly from above, driving it to the ground. The slower smaller bird was no match for its more agile pursuer.

To our amazement—and horror—a grey robin-sized bird flew back to our feeder area, carrying a male Cardinal with its feet. We watched through the picture window as about 30 feet away the grey bird dropped onto the seven inches of snow under a honeysuckle bush and killed the Cardinal using its heavy hooked beak. As it raised its head occasionally to look around, we could see that it was a Shrike but could not tell whether the black eye mask stopped at the beak or proceeded over the top of it. I believe, however, that this was the same Northern Shrike I had seen here earlier on November 26.

At last the Shrike flew up from where it had killed the Cardinal but didn't take its prey with it. Later, when I checked the spot, there were no tracks leading to or from the area and the Cardinal was gone. I only wish the Shrike had chosen to feed on one of the House Sparrows we have around here instead of the bird it did.

This once-in-a-lifetime sight occurred on December 18, 1991, and I have to keep telling myself that Shrikes have to live too.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the following new Associate Members:

Mr. Thomas F. Burke
3031 Staley Rd.
Grand Island, NY 14072
Tel. 773-1563

Mrs. Diane DiDomenico
601 Winspear Rd
Elma, NY 14059
Tel. 683-7343

Mrs. Susan Gall
36 St. Mary's St.
Lancaster, NY 140786
Tel. 681-8238

Ms Elaine Trenkle
149 E. Morris Ave
Buffalo, NY 14214
Tel. 832-5344 & 856-4022

Mrs. Dorothy Watson
771 Fletcher St.
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Tel. 695-2820

John Welte
112 Capen Blvd
Buffalo, NY 14226
Tel. 835-0794

The Buffalo Ornithological Society has received word
of the deaths of three of its Members:

Dr. Carl A. Stettenbenz on Feb. 7, 1992

and recently
Mrs. Clark Woolley
&
Lou Burton

Our sympathy to all their families.

Please Note:

Kathy Hentz's Telephone number is 326-7480

We have also received word that Harold Axtell was recently hospitalized.
It is expected that he will be home by the time you receive this issue.

BOS MEETINGS

May 13: Discussion of Mildred Baker McVey inheritance (see article earlier in this issue).

May 27: Discussion and Vote on Mildred Baker McVey inheritance.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at

8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

Mar. 21: SATURDAY not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara County. Meet in Wright's Corners (north of Lockport) on Hwy 78 at the Top's Market at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Willie D'Anna (1-731-4348).

Mar. 29: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for spring waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World 0.1 mi. east of Main and Transit. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297).

Apr. 12: Sunday. B.O.S. April Bird Count.

Apr. 18: SATURDAY not Sunday. Hawk migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Howard Johnson parking lot in Niagara Falls where I-190 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Rt. 62), or go directly to

Beamer Conservation Area. This is 30 miles into Canada on the escarpment above Grimsby.

- Apr. 26: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Amherst Book World 0.1 mi. east of Main and Transit. We will join the GOS at the Braddock Bay Park Shelter. Leaders: Mike Zebehazy (662-6987) and Bob Spahn (GOS).
- May 3: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Tifft parking lot. This is a half-day trip for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Bill Watson (695-2820).
- May 9-10: Saturday-Sunday. Presque Isle & Pymatuning weekend. Contact Mary Saville (662-5215) for details and reservations for the Saturday evening dinner and program. Even a one day trip to Presque Isle, PA, about 80 mi. from Buffalo, can be rewarding for migrating warblers.
- May 17: Sunday. BOS May Bird Count. Call the Compiler, Joe DiDomenico (683-7543) for a territory.
- May 31: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Vermont & Busti or at 6:15 at the first parking lot on the Canadian side, 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).
- June 3: Wednesday. Whip-Poor-Will trip and dinner. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Vermont & Busti. We will eat at Lotus Garden Restaurant in Port Colborne, Ont., then proceed to Wilson Road which is 4 mi. west on Hwy. 3. Late-comers can meet at the restaurant about 7:30. Leader: Mike Galas (693-4892). Please call him for reservations so that the restaurant will have an approximate number. The restaurant is at 182 West Street on the west bank of the Welland Canal. It is about one block south of the southernmost canal bridge, which is on Clarence Street. They will offer us a variety of very good combination plates at about \$5.00.

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer:

Jane Heyer
296 Westchester Blvd
Kenmore, NY 14217
875-3318

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$0.50 per copy.

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THE MONTH: February 1992

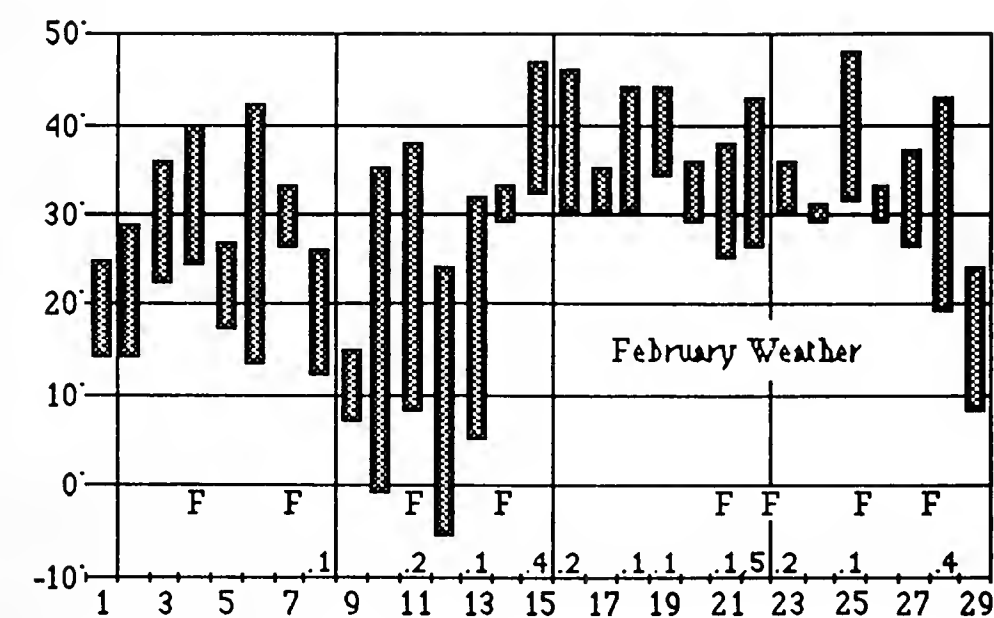
Because their records are generally compiled by months, weathermen have tended to consider the months of December, January, and February the winter months. Given that tentative definition, this winter was very mild indeed. February completed the picture with its temperature average 27.7°F , over 3° above normal. Notice on the chart how only the first half of the month (and that last throw-in Leap Year day) showed wintry temperatures.

From the middle of the 13th through the 27th the temperatures were almost balmy.

But nighttime temperatures on the 10th and 12th were indeed cold. The -6° , recorded on the 12th was coldest since 1988. Over the 91 days in these three months there were only 14 days (two in December, six in January, and now six again in February) when the temperature fell below 10° ; and the 10th and 12th were the only two of those days when the temperature fell below 0° .

Precipitation was about normal at 2.5 inches, but again because of the warm temperatures most of this fell as rain. Only seven inches of snow fell, a foot below average for the month.

There were no damaging storms, but early on the 19th there was a



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 1st was a Saturday, the 2nd a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

quite spectacular thunderstorm.

Let us examine four categories of records as they compare with the six years from 1986 to 1991: rarities, winter visitors, half-hardies, and early arrivals.

Rarities. No one can discount a February that includes among its records a **Great Gray Owl**. Originally seen by Charles Hodges near the Jamestown Airport on January 29, identified by Bob Sundell on January 31 and reported to the birding community by him, it was observed by quite literally hundreds of birders through this month. What made this record of what Beardslee and Mitchell record as a "casual very rare winter visitor" even more remarkable was the fact that it was found within about a dozen miles of another bird of this species just across the Pennsylvania border. Many were able to observe both in the same day.

Bob Brock had a number of Black-crowned Night Herons return to conifers in his yard this month. From his comments: "Unlike last season's visits, which were daily from October through January, this season the birds were here only five days during that period." He then records counts from February 14th to month's end with a maximum on the 16th of seven adults and two young birds.

Four additional Mute Swans were discovered off Fort Erie in mid-month by Barbara Henderson and Peter Yoerg. Will the old patriarch of Tifft and the Buffalo Harbor find a mate this year? In fact, is the old patriarch male or female?

The Merlin was seen again on February 11 and 12 near Main and Bailey on the university campus.

Continuing her excellent coverage of the East Aurora area, Linda Holmes flushed out a Virginia Rail and kept it under intermittent observation from February 5th through 12th. Did this bird succumb to the icy cold of that last day?

Winter visitors. Here is a comparison with the previous five Februarys.

Species	1992 Max	1986-1992	Comments
Rough-legged Hawk	4	5 of 5	max 12 in 1989
Snowy Owl	6 reports	5 of 5	max 4 in 1991
Great Gray Owl	1	0 of 5	
Long-eared Owl	4	5 of 5	max 8 in 1990
Short-eared Owl	13	5 of 5	max 26 in 1991
Bohemian Waxwing	none	0 of 5	
Northern Shrike	10 reports	5 of 5	12 reports in 1991
Lapland Longspur	2	3 of 5	max 50 in 1991
Snow Bunting	35	5 of 5	max 1000 in 1990
Pine Grosbeak	none	0 of 5	
Red Crossbill	none	0 of 5	
White-winged Crossbill	none	0 of 5	
Common Redpoll	none	2 of 5	
Pine Siskin	11	4 of 5	max 200+ in 1990
Evening Grosbeak	11	4 of 5	max 77 in 1987

As always, February represents a low point for birders and this one is no exception. What is so striking about this record of winter visitors, however, is the almost total absence of winter finches. Many of us thought that this would be the winter when finally we would have a massive incursion. The November redpolls gave a strong signal that this would be so, but the chart shows that signal was a false one. Notice also that this is not simply a one year phenomenon. The past five years have all recorded sparse populations of these birds. It is getting difficult in fact to recall those years when dozens and dozens of Evening Grosbeaks gobbled up tons of sunflower seeds at every feeder in town.

There is an interesting contrast on this chart between the finches and the owls. This has been a quite remarkable year for northern owls with the earlier Boreal Owl and now this Great Gray Owl adding to the widespread incursion of Snowy Owls. It is interesting to speculate again about the reason for the difference. Some evidence points to many of the Snowy Owls being young birds forced out of territories. This suggests highly successful breeding seasons rather than poor feeding conditions. If that is the case, then why are not the finches forcing out members of their clan for the same reason? Perhaps this relates to winter territorial habits of the finches that allow for greater densities.

Certainly we often see these birds in large flocks when they do occur here. Is it in fact possible that with another good breeding year even these densities will be overwhelmed next winter, producing a year-lag finch incursion?

Half-hardies. Here again is a comparison with the previous five Februarys. Included on this table are all the species compared in January except for those in the migrant table that follows.

Species	1992 Max	1987-1992	Comments
Pied-billed Grebe	6	2 of 5	3 in 1989, 7 in 1987
Great Blue Heron	43	5 of 5	previous max 29 in 1990
Black-crowned Night Heron	9	0 of 5	
Wood Duck	none	2 of 5	2 in 1991, 1 in 1988
Blue-winged Teal	none	0 of 5	
Northern Shoveler	none	1 of 5	single bird recorded in 1989
American Widgeon	none	1 of 5	single bird recorded in 1987
Ring-necked Duck	10	1 of 5	previous max 2 in 1987
Hooded Merganser	5	4 of 5	max ties 1989
Ruddy Duck	1	1 of 5	single bird recorded in 1989
Virginia Rail	1	0 of 5	
Dunlin	none	1 of 5	single bird recorded in 1988
Common Snipe	none	0 of 5	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3	2 of 5	previous max 2 in 1991
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	none	1 of 5	single bird recorded in 1988
Tufted Titmouse	5 reports	5 of 5	
Brown Creeper	none	1 of 5	3 recorded in 1987
Carolina Wren	5 reports	3 of 5	
Winter Wren	none	0 of 5	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	none	0 of 5	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	none	0 of 5	
Eastern Bluebird	5	5 of 5	max ties 1991
Hermit Thrush	none	1 of 5	single bird in 1987
American Robin	106	4 of 5	max of 213 recorded in 1987
Gray Catbird	none	0 of 5	
Northern Mockingbird	1	3 of 5	max of 5 recorded in 1989
Brown Thrasher	1	2 of 5	max of 2 recorded in 1989
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	2 of 5	max of 7 recorded in 1987
Pine Warbler	1	1 of 5	single bird in 1990
Palm Warbler	none	0 of 5	
Ovenbird	none	0 of 5	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	none	0 of 5	
Dickcissel	none	1 of 5	single bird in 1990
Rufous-sided Towhee	none	3 of 5	max of 2 recorded in 1990
Chipping Sparrow	none	1 of 5	max of 2 recorded in 1991
Field Sparrow	none	2 of 5	single birds in 1990 and 1991
Swamp Sparrow	1	3 of 5	max of 2 recorded in 1991
White-throated Sparrow	13	2 of 5	max of 45 recorded in 1987
White-crowned Sparrow	none	2 of 5	max of 3 recorded in 1991
Eastern Meadowlark	none	1 of 5	single bird in 1989
Rusty Blackbird	none	3 of 5	max of 4 recorded in 1989

As was noted last month, this is a mixed bag. A comparison with last month will show that a large number of species recorded in January — Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, American Widgeon, Common Snipe, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Rusty Blackbird — were not recorded again in February. Many of these birds were simply not looked for in February. Others, ducks for example, may have retreated from the area. But there is evidence that some of these birds

— Gray Catbird, Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Rufous-sided Towhee — died from the continuing stress of cold weather.

What is remarkable is that other birds turned up, most notably the Virginia Rail, Brown Thrasher and Pine Warbler. Surely these birds did not move into the region. They were almost certainly here and not found before.

Early Migrants. Here are the arrival dates for some of this year's early migrants compared with the arrival dates given in Beardslee and Mitchell.

Species	1992	Beardslee and Mitchell
Tundra Swan	Feb 6	March 12
Northern Pintail	Feb 22	March 9
Redhead	Feb 17	March 10
Ring-necked Duck	Feb 23	March 7
Red-shouldered Hawk	Feb 22	March 6
American Coot	Feb 23	March 26
Killdeer	Feb 26	March 2
Purple Sandpiper	Feb 22	March 26
Red-winged Blackbird	Feb 22	March 4
Common Grackle	Feb 22	March 7
Brown-headed Cowbird	Feb 29	March 15

This is a quite remarkable comparison. Is this a general extension, does it represent a response to the very open winter so far, or is there some other cause for these much earlier dates? — G. Rising

Literature Cited

Beardslee, Clark S. and Harold D. Mitchell. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Volume 22, 1965.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	Dunkirk harbor	Holmes et al
"	9,27	2,1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Horned Grebe	17	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	Watson
"	23	3	Celeron	Sundell
"	23	1	Scio Twp.	M & E Pitzrick
D.-crest. Cormorant	4,9,17,27	6,3,2,6	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Great Blue Heron	4,17,27	17,21,43	Motor Island	Watson
*Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	14-29	9 max.	Buffalo	Brock
Tundra Swan	6	9	Niagara River	Bellerby
"	17	2	Niagara Falls, Ont	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Tundra Swan	17	11	Fort Erie, Ont	Watson
"	22	34	over Amherst Twp.	Suggs
"	23	30	over Wil.-Tusc. SP	Potter
Mute Swan	22	1	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	22	4	Fort Erie, Ont	Watson
Snow Goose	<u>2</u>	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Lange
"	<u>7</u>	1	Beaver Is. SP	Watson
"	<u>17</u>	1	Fort Erie, Ont	Watson
	29F	2	Stockton Twp.	Rew, Buck
Northern Pintail	1	1	Scio Twp.	Pitzrick et al
"	2	2	Amity Twp.	"
"	5	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Holmes et al
"	22F	19	off Porter Twp.	D'Anna
"	29	58	Stockton Twp.	Rew, Buck
"	29	1	Goat Is.	Broderick
Redhead	17F	29	Dunkirk Harbor	D & D Suggs
"	23	8	Celeron	Sundell
Ring-necked Duck	6	7	Niagara River	Bellerby
"	17	1	Fort Erie, Ont	Watson
"	23F	4	Celeron	Sundell
"	23F	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Buck
White-winged Scoter	2	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Broderick
"	17	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	Watson
Hooded Merganser	4	5	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	15	1	Scio Twp.	V & M Pitzrick
"	23	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Buck
*Ruddy Duck	<u>23</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Buck
Bald Eagle	3	1 ad.	Irving	Thill et al
"	27	1 imm.	over Lackawanna	DiTommaso
Northern Harrier	1	1	Stockton Twp.	Rew, Buck
Sharp-sh. Hawk	4-28	7 reports	throughout WNY	
Cooper's Hawk	2-29	10 reports	throughout WNY	
Red-shouldered Hawk	<u>1,15,16</u>	1,1,1	Amity Twp	Pitzrick et al
"	22F	1	Sheridan Twp	R & C Budniewski
"	25	1	over Evangola SP	DiTommaso
Rough-legged Hawk	1-29	9 rep.(4 max)	throughout region	
Merlin	11,12	1	Buffalo	Suggs et al
*Virginia Rail	<u>5,6,11,12</u>	1	East Aurora	Holmes
American Coot	1,17	167,157	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna, Suggs et al
"	23F	1	Celeron	Sundell
*Killdeer	26F	1	Brocton	Budniewski
*Purple Sandpiper	22,23	7,8	Goat Island	Watson, Galas, Rising
Little Gull	1-11	2-1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	2	1	Lewiston Twp	Broderick
Bonaparte's Gull	2	500	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
Iceland Gull	17	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont	Watson
"	29	2	Niag.-on-the-Lake	D'Anna et al
L. Black-b. Gull	<u>16</u>	1 ad.	Fort Erie, Ont	Yoerg, Henderson
Glaucous Gull	1,12	1,1	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna, Mosher et al
"	3	3	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont	Bellerby
"	17	4	Niagara River	Watson
"	22	1	off Porter Twp.	D'Anna
"	29	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake	D'Anna et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Glaucous Gull	29	4	Queenston, Ont	"
Snowy Owl	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew
"	17,22	1	Wheatfield Twp	D'Anna et al
"	22	1	Niagara Falls, Ont	Watson
"	23	1	Port Colborne, Ont	Watson, Farnan(BOS)
"	23	1	Rock Point PP	Budniewski, Farnan(BOS)
*Great Gray Owl	1-29	1	Ellicott Twp.	Sundell many obsers.
Long-eared Owl	9	1	Grand Island	Galas
"	23	4	Rock Point PP	Watson, Farnan(BOS)
Short-eared Owl	1,6,20	12,11,5	Sheridan Twp.	Rew et al
"	1-29	1-3	Ellicott Twp.	Sundell
"	6,14	3,2	Sheldon Twp.	O.Rosche, Harper
"	7	5	Ellicott Twp.	Rew, Buck
"	23	5	Bertie Twp., Ont	Watson, Farnan(BOS)
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	6-22,23	1,2	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Potter, D'Anna et al
"	23	1	Rock Point PP	Budniewski, Farnan(BOS)
*Red-headed Wdpkr.	22	1	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	2	1	Gerry Twp.	Galas et al
Tufted Titmouse	1-29	5 reports	throughout WNY	
Carolina Wren	1-29	1	Eden Twp.	Andrle
"	17	1	Queenston, Ont	Watson
"	22	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	25	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Eastern Bluebird	17	2	Newfane Twp.	D'Anna et al
"	19	3	Sheridan Twp.	C. Budniewski
"	23	2	Cambria Twp.	Rising, Galas
"	23	3	Amity Twp	M & V Pitzrick
American Robin	6	106	Amity Lake	V & M Pitzrick
"	15	71	Porter Twp.	Galas, Rosenberg
Northern Mockingbird	14	1	Darien Twp.	Harper
*Brown Thrasher	2	1	Jos. Davis SP	Broderick
Cedar Waxwing	3	70	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Shrike	1-23	10 reports	throughout WNY	
Yellow-r. Warbler	17	6	Lake Erie SP	D & D Suggs
*Pine Warbler	17	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna et al
Swamp Sparrow	9,14	1,1	East Aurora	Holmes
White-thr. Sparrow	1-29	13	Darien Twp.(f)	Harper
Lapland Longspur	17	2	Yates Twp.	Broderick
Snow Bunting	23	35	Port Colborne, Ont	Watson et al
Red-w. Blackbird	8,17	1,2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Broderick et al
"	22F	9	Tifft NP	Watson
"	23	12	Scio Twp	Pitzrick et al
*Common Grackle	22F,24	1,6	Sheridan Twp.	C. Budniewski
"	27	10	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Brown-headed Cowbird	4-15	1-8	Tonawanda Twp.(f)	Hess
"	15	2	Sheridan Twp.	R & C Budniewski
"	29F	2	Wheatfield Twp.(f)	D'Anna, Potter
Purple Finch	1-29	1-5	Amity Lake(f)	Pitzrick et al
"	3	3	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Pine Siskin	1-12	11 banded	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
American Goldfinch	1	34	Scio & Amity Twps.	Pitzrick et al
Evening Grosbeak	1	3	Towerville	D'Anna et al
"	14	11	Amity Lake(f)	Pitzrick et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Evening Grosbeak	17	2	Charlotte Twp.	Budniewski

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	114
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	10
Total for year.	124

Niagara River Trip February 2, 1992

A small group of birders met at the Peace Bridge, most likely expecting a day of observing gulls and waterfowl. However, this weekend a Great Grey Owl decided to make an appearance in Warren, PA. With the Owl and the general lack of uncommon birds on the river, the group decided to make the 100 mile trip to see it. The Great Owl was patiently sitting about 20 feet up a Hemlock. Everybody got excellent looks, as the bird allowed very close approach and there were several spotting scopes pointed at it.

Since it was early in the day, it was agreed to bird Dunkirk on the way back. Just passed the Pennsylvania state line a Northern Shrike flew in front of us, but did not land so most of the group missed it. An immature Rough-legged Hawk along Rt. 60 proved more cooperative, allowing views both flying and perched. It was only after getting to Dunkirk that we discovered that we had almost driven within sight of a second Great Grey Owl at the Jamestown airport. While at Dunkirk, we saw the two blue phase Snow Geese that have been corrupted by the hand-out accepting flock of Canada Geese.

The group then continued to the Dunkirk where at least three more Rough-legged Hawks and a female Northern Harrier were seen. Unfortunately we were too early in the day to locate any of the Short-eared Owls that have been seen there. The trip ended pleasantly as a flock of 30+ American Robins flew over.

Ronald Lange

B.O.S. Council Report on the Mildred Baker McVey Inheritance

In the fall of 1991, the B.O.S. was the recipient of a substantial inheritance from the estate of Mildred Baker McVey. In addition, the B.O.S. has in its treasury approximately \$850.00 in an established memorial fund, as well as two shares of Wells Fargo stock. The total of these three items is approximately \$16,000.

Acting on a motion from Bob Brock, the B.O.S. Council met on April 3, 1992 to draft a proposal establishing a B.O.S. Memorial fund to be presented to the membership. Present were Wavel Barber, Dick Collins, Joe DiDomenico, Mike Galas, Betsy Potter and Ellen Schopp. Written suggestions and proposals submitted by the membership were reviewed and the following proposal is submitted to the membership for its approval.

1. Name of the Fund: Mildred Baker McVey Memorial Fund in memory of Mildred Baker McVey who's bequest formed the foundation of the fund.

2. Purpose: Section #2 of the Constitution of the Buffalo Ornithological Society states: "The purpose of the Society shall be the promotion of the scientific study of birds . . . , the establishment and maintenance of refuges, participation in any other measures aimed at the improvement of conditions affecting birds".

This fund will provide a continual source of income to fund, or partially fund project which the B.O.S. Council and members deem as worthwhile and in the best interest of the Society.

It is hoped that other B.O.S. members will make donations or similar bequests to the fund to insure future funding of worthwhile projects benefitting the B.O.S. and wild birds in general.

3. Account will be opened which will be separate from the general B.O.S. treasury account. The starting balance will be \$15,000 which will come from the McVey inheritance, the current "B.O.S. Memorial Fund" and the sale of the Wells Fargo stock. The remaining difference of \$1,000 will be deposited in the general B.O.S. treasury account.

From this \$15,000 foundation, up to \$2,000 will be spent this spring to fund a number of worthy projects that have been suggested by the Council. *In future years, approved projects will be funded from the interest generated by the fund only.* The principle will not be used.

4. The Council will serve as a Grant Committee to review and select projects which it deems worthy. The procedure will be as follows:

A. All projects or requests for grants must be in writing and submitted to the Council Chairperson by the first meeting in January each year.

Proposals should be thorough and state the amount of money needed.

B. The applicant may be asked to detail the proposal in person before the Council.

C. Only proposals by B.O.S. members in good standing will be considered.

D. The Council will review All applications by the end of January of each year. The Council may make recommendations to the applicant for modifications to his/her proposals to be considered.

E. The Council will draft a list of recommended grants with the amount of each. The total of the recommendations will not exceed the total interest earned by the fund in the preceding calendar year. This list will be submitted to the membership for a vote at the first meeting in February of each year. The results will be tabulated that night and the results read at the meeting.

F. The grants will be awarded at the second meeting of February. At this time, the names of any members who have contributed \$200 or more to the fund will be read and acknowledged.

5. Successful grant applicants will be required to do a report on their project which will be published in the *Prothonotary*. He or she may also be asked to present a program to the membership.

1992 RECOMMENDED PROPOSALS

The following proposals will be voted on at the second meeting in May, 1992.

1. \$500 donation to the William C. Vaughan Memorial Fund.
2. Fund the printing of a bird checklist for the Tifft Nature Preserve at an approximate maximum cost of \$50.
3. Purchase a two-way CB communication system to be used in the first and last vehicles during field trips at an approximate maximum cost of \$300.
4. Purchase a Bogen 3021 tripod from ABA sales for the telescope that was donated to Tifft Nature Preserve at an approximate maximum cost of \$150.

5. Start a Purple Martin nest box program. Buy an aluminum 24 martin house and pole to erected at Tiffit Nature Preserve this year (with possible additional sites in future years) at an approximate cost of \$200.
6. Purchase a portable public address system to be used at B.O.S. meetings to aid members in hearing the speaker at an approximate maximum cost of \$400.
7. Assist a nest box project for Barn Owls conducted by Chuck Rosenberg. Expand the project from a current 25 boxes to 65 boxes. Approximate maximum cost \$400 for material only, and Mike Galas will assist with the labor.

Niagara Frontier Barn Owl Nest Box Project

The Niagara Frontier Barn Owl Nest Box Project was initiated during the summer of 1991 with the objective of establishing numerous potential barn owl nest sites in open grassland areas (high quality foraging habitat) of the Niagara Frontier region. The Barn Owl is certainly a rare breeder in the Niagara Frontier region, and a scarcity of productive nest sites appears to be a contributing factor. This project is focusing on providing potential productive nest sites in the form of nest boxes. Nest boxes are ideal nest sites for the Barn Owl because they are relatively safe from raccoon predation and can be used for nesting year after year.

A total of 25 Barn Owl nest boxes were erected by mid-March so as to be available for the 1992 breeding season. Sixteen were placed in roofed silos, two in topless silos and seven in barns. Six of the seven nest boxes were of the flush-mount design (i.e. attached flush to an inside wall with the entrance hole facing an open window or hole in the barn wall so that an owl can fly directly into the nest box). The nest boxes are distributed over southern Niagara and northern Erie Counties in the Towns of Wheatfield, Pendleton, Cambria, Lockport, Royalton, Clarence and Newstead.

We are hopeful that at least a few of the nest boxes will support Barn Owl nests in the next few years. In Virginia, approximately 50 percent of 85 nest boxes across the state were used within the first five years after being erected. There is no arguing that the Barn Owl is much more common in Virginia than Western New York. Nevertheless, Barn Owl feathers and/or pellets were present at five Western New York nest box sites at the time the nest boxes were erected. Also four Barn Owl nest site locations (nesting ca late 1970's and early 1980's) have been identified since the initiation of this project. Only one has been "confirmed" by a photograph, but the other three are "probable" based on the site and the surrounding habitat.

Several BOS members have expressed interest in expanding the Barn Owl nest box project. We are proposing to erect additional nest boxes in the towns listed above as well as expanding into additional areas which support suitable habitat (an abundance of grass field habitats with relatively little woodland). This is a project that can benefit from the involvement of numerous people, and we are looking for help from interested individuals. There are a number of tasks which need to be done: building nest boxes, identifying potential sites for the nest boxes, securing landowner permission, erecting nest boxes and monitoring them for use by Barn Owls (visit the nest box site at least twice during the nesting season). Anyone interested in helping with any of these tasks is encouraged to call Chuck Rosenberg at 695-5844.

Chuck and John Rosenberg

BOS MEETINGS

- Apr. 8: Birdathon briefing followed by a Blue Bird program by Rich Wells.
- Apr. 22: A Special Presentation on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Come and learn something about this special area and the public policy issues affecting it.
- May 13: "Attu" presented by Kayo Roy. Discussion of Mildred Baker McVey inheritance.
- May 27: Discussion and Vote on Mildred Baker McVey inheritance.
- June 10: Annual BOS Picnic at Tifft Nature Preserve, results of the Birdathon and presentation of Awards.

The Program Committee currently consists of Tom Berg, Dick Collins, Ed Crohn, Don Ehreulich, Dave Suggs and Mike Galas. Please contact any of the above with your ideas for a program. Anyone wishing to join the committee is welcome. A special Program Committee meeting is being considered for May.

Mike Galas, Chairman

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

- May 3: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Tifft parking lot. This is a half-day trip for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Bill Watson (695-2820).
- May 9-10: Saturday-Sunday. Presque Isle weekend. Contact Mary Saville (662-5215) for details and reservations for the Saturday evening dinner and program. Even a one day trip to Presque Isle, PA, about 80 mi. from Buffalo, can be rewarding for migrating warblers.
- May 17: Sunday. BOS May Bird Count. Call the Compiler, Joe DiDomenico (683-7543) for a territory.
- May 31: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Vermont & Busti or at 6:15 at the first parking lot on the Canadian side, 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).
- June 3: Wednesday. Whip-Poor-Will trip and dinner. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Vermont & Busti. We will eat at Lotus Garden Restaurant in Port Colborne, Ont., then proceed to Wilson Road which is 4 mi. west on Hwy. 3. Late-comers can meet at the restaurant about 7:30. Leader: Mike Galas (693-4892). Please call him for reservations so that the restaurant will have an approximate number. The restaurant is at 182 West Street on the west bank of the Welland Canal. It is about one block south of the southernmost canal bridge, which is on Clarence Street. They will offer us a variety of very good combination plates at about \$5.00.

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer:

Jane Heyer
296 Westchester Blvd
Kenmore, NY 14217
875-3318

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$0.50 per copy.

Editor:

Charles D. Halvorsen
212 Main Street
West Seneca, NY 14224

BIRDERS

Come Join The FUN

The Buffalo Ornithological Society's
FIFTH Annual Little Biddy Birdathon
1992

WHEN & WHERE:

You choose the day, any day between May 1 and May 31. You choose the place, anywhere within the B.O.S. study area. We choose the time: birding must take place between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Three hours is all you get. You are allowed ONE pre-selected rain date. If it rains on both of your dates, that's just too bad.

NOTE:

You CANNOT bird on both days and then pick the better day

TEAMS:

Team size must be between 2 and 5 persons. The team leader must be a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

SCORING:

All birds must be SEEN, and not just heard. Absolutely no electronic devices can be used to lure birds to you! All species must be verified by the team leader (who must be a BOS member), and one other member of the team. Other team members need not be BOS members.

All warbler species count as two points, non-warblers count one point. Any species not sighted by any other team counts double (warblers 4 points, non-warblers 2 points).

The winning team will be announced at the BOS Annual Picnic on June 10.

PRIZES:

YES! There are some!

HOW TO REGISTER:

There is a fee - \$1.00 per team member. Complete registration form and send with fee (makes checks payable to Buffalo Ornithological Society) and mail to: H.M. Bateman, 99 Trinity Place, Buffalo, NY 14201.

For more info: H.M. Bateman, 886-3980



BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

5th Annual Little Biddy Birdathon

REGISTRATION FORM

Team Name (Optional): _____

Team Leader: _____ Phone #: _____
(Must be member of B.O.S.)

Birding Buddies: _____

Birding Date (1st Choice) _____
(Must be between May 1 - May 31)

Rain Date (one only): _____

Time: _____
7:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Location: _____
(Must be within B.O.S. Territory)

★ FEE: \$1 per team member. Please make checks out to:
Buffalo Ornithological Society. (No cash, please.)

Mail Form By APRIL 27 to: H.M. Bateman
99 Trinity Place
Buffalo, NY 14201

Any questions/problems: H.M. Bateman 886-3980

BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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Buffalo, New York 14211

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Volume 58

April 1992

Number 4

THE MONTH: March 1992

Winter took up in mid March where it left off in mid December. The spring like weather of January and February lasted until the 10th, but the next two weeks brought both cold and snow.

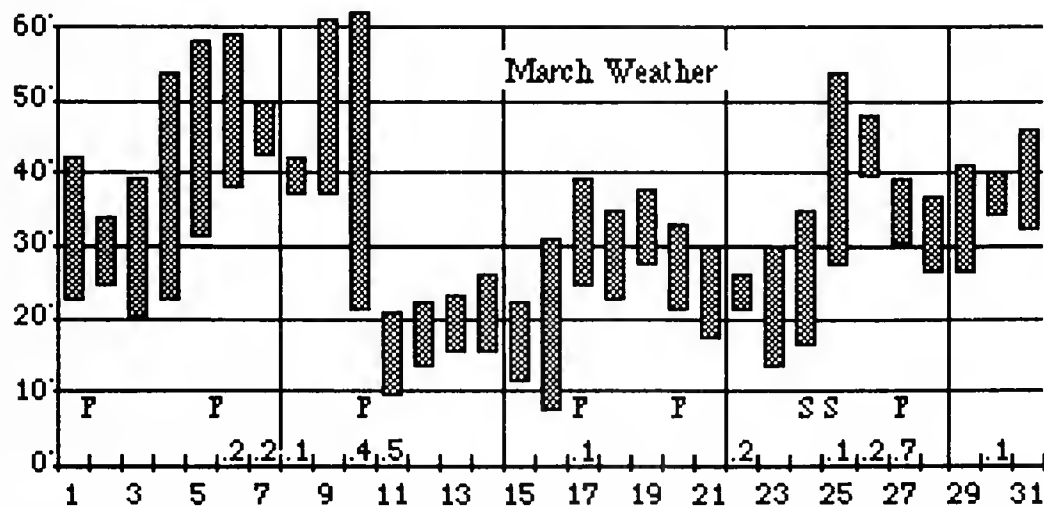
Precipitation for the month was normal at 2.9 inches, but the 23 inch snowfall was both the high month fall for this winter and high for the month of March since 1959. Most of it fell on the 11th: 15 inches at the Buffalo Airport. The ground was snow covered for all but two days after that.

Average temperature for the month was 31.6°, 1.5° below normal, but as the chart shows, there

were wide swings. The first ten days averaged 11° above normal, the next two weeks 10° below normal, the final week more seasonal. Notice in particular the 53° temperature drop from March 10 to March 11!

Before March showed its teeth Lake Erie was nearly clear of ice, making it possible to remove the ice boom late in the month. By that time there remained only about 50 square miles of ice, mostly in the Buffalo Harbor area.

Consider the March 1992 records as they relate to four categories.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, Ss stationery fronts, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 7th was a Saturday, the 8th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo

Exceptional Records. Greater White-fronted Geese have been reported in March four of the last six years, so they may soon move up from rare to some less exciting category, but I will always be happy to see these geese that look as though they have been caught dipping into the whipped cream. The cream has dripped off their off-pink bills, but it sticks to the feathers around their bills.

Other unusual records include a Northern Goshawk, the university Merlin, the last few days of the visit of the Great Gray Owl, a Common Raven, and two way out of season species, Dunlin and

Pine Warbler. The four Dunlins were seen on March 7. Beardslee and Mitchell (henceforth B&M) record this species as arriving May 4 and only becoming common on the 19th; our 1991 Date Guide (DG) records their early arrival as April 12. And the March 8 Pine Warbler: B&M welcome it on April 20 and DG on April 17.

Winter visitors. Here is a comparison with the previous six months of March.

Species	1992 Max	1986-1991	Comments on 1986-1991
Rough-legged Hawk	8	6 of 6	max 12 in 1991
Snowy Owl	2 reports, each 1	4 of 6	max 2 and 3 reports in 1988
Great Gray Owl	1	0 of 6	
Long-eared Owl	3	5 of 6	max 8 in 1990
Short-eared Owl	3	5 of 6	max 13 in 1989 and 1991
Bohemian Waxwing	none	0 of 6	
Northern Shrike	6 reports, each 1	6 of 6	max 3 and 13 reports in 1991
Lapland Longspur	27	3 of 6	prior max 25 in 1991
Snow Bunting	30	6 of 6	max 2000 in 1987
Pine Grosbeak	none	0 of 6	
Red Crossbill	none	1 of 6	max 14 in 1988
White-winged Crossbill	none	1 of 6	max 38 in 1990
Common Redpoll	75	4 of 6	prior max 3 in 1986 and 1988
Pine Siskin	17 banded	6 of 6	max 773 banded in 1990
Evening Grosbeak	33	6 of 6	max 93 in 1987

Those Common Redpolls that passed through last November finally found their way back and again quickly through the region this month.

Migrants. Here are the arrival dates for some of this year's migrants compared with the arrival dates given in B&M. These do not include the species reported last month.

Species	1992	B&M
Common Loon	March 21	April 4
Pied-billed Grebe	March 25	March 20
Wood Duck	March 5	March 22
Green-winged Teal	March 7	March 24
Blue-winged Teal	March 21	March 26
Northern Shoveler	March 29	March 28
Gadwall	March 8	March 27
American Wigeon	March 1	March 10
Lesser Scaup	March 14	March 18
Black Scoter	March 29	April 1
Surf Scoter	March 31	April 17
Turkey Vulture	March 3	March 19
Osprey	March 31	April 10
Common Snipe	March 10	March 26
American Woodcock	March 5	March 17
Eastern Phoebe	March 28	March 25
Tree Swallow	March 25	March 31
Hermit Thrush	March 15	April 1
Fox Sparrow	March 11	March 24
Eastern Meadowlark	March 4	March 30
Rusty Blackbird	March 3	March 14

We have come to expect some correlations with major weather patterns here. Arrivals should beat the normal dates during that warm period at the beginning of the month and indeed all nine do exactly that: Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Turkey Vulture, Common Snipe, American Woodcock, Eastern Meadowlark, and Rusty Blackbird. Then we should expect

arrivals to be delayed by the bad weather of March 11 to 24, but here the expected pattern fails. Pied-billed Grebe is late as expected but Common Loon, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Hermit Thrush, and Fox Sparrow are early.

Things are just not as simple as such expectations lead us to believe. There are many factors operating here and local weather patterns are only one of those influences. For example, the reduced ice in Lake Erie may have dictated waterfowl movements more than the temporal weather and the weather south of us is often quite different from that in western New York. Also longer term trends may have changed expected arrival dates from those at the time B&M was written. And finally, coverage varies with the weather and from year to year.

Comments. Records from Lakeside Cemetery in Hamburg (McDonald, Rew, *et al.*) total 1837 hawks. Most of them are Red-tailed Hawks (47% of all hawks identified) and especially through the latter half of the month Turkey Vultures (37%), but there are also many Red-shouldered Hawks (11%). D'Anna, DiTommaso, and Potter report a separate total of 1022 hawks seen on 9, 25, and 31 March with similar species distribution: their corresponding per cents are: 42, 25, and 23. Only three Bald Eagles and no Golden Eagles are recorded, but I received lengthy descriptions from two individuals not associated with BOS telling of other eagles seen east and south of Buffalo.

Included among Brooks' banding records is a chickadee return in its sixth year. She also notes that the Common Raven she reports was on the same nest in Red Pine in the Philips Creek State Reforestation Land in the Town of Ward that was occupied in 1988.

Counters no longer have the "free" Mute Swan of Buffalo Harbor in winter and Tiffit in summer: it flew into power lines and was killed on its five mile migration. (So much for staying close to home.) But other Mute Swans are turning up in the region, this month Chilton's two at Beaver Island State Park.

Potter and D'Anna continue to locate Northern Saw-whet Owls in the woodlots along Lake Ontario. Given the report frequency and the large numbers of these birds recorded in Rochester and Toronto, more of these delightful little owls certainly pass through our region. What this society needs is youngsters willing to scramble through thick undergrowth with pine twigs stabbing at their eyes, raspberry bushes tearing at their trousers, and vines grasping their feet and arms — all in the good cause of finding these diminutive transients. (On March 21, Jones found a saw-whet the easy way, as a road kill.)

Because their coverage is reasonably continuous and mostly confined to very specific areas over the entire month, records like those of Brooks, the Budniewskis, Holmes, the Junkins, and Pitzrick give a different kind of local picture of arrivals and departures. Those who know where these folks live and do their birding may be interested in comparing their arrival dates for a single common migrant, Red-winged Blackbird. They are, respectively: March 20, February 26, February 26, March 11, and February 23. Such wide swings have nothing to do with better or poorer coverage; rather, they tell a small part of the story of how a species arrives in the area (often in bird "traps" that get good coverage because they produce earliest and therefore noteworthy records) but then distribute more slowly through the hinterland. — G. Rising

Literature Cited

- Andrle, Robert F., *et al.*, eds. *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York & Adjacent Ontario*. Sixth Edition. Buffalo, Buffalo Ornithological Society, 1991.
- Beardslee, Clark S. and Harold D. Mitchell. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Volume 22, 1965.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	21F	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna (BOS)
Pied-billed Grebe	25F	1	Carlton Twp.	D'Anna
D.-crest. Cormorant	20	5	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
"	29	5	Motor Is.-Niag. R.	Watson
Great Blue Heron	14	56	Motor Is.-Niag. R.	Watson
"	29	150	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
"	31	33	Cuba	Pitzrick
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	7	1	Buffalo	Schultz
Tundra Swan	2	96	Sheridan Twp.	R & C Budniewski
"	3	200	over Evangola SP	DiTommaso
"	9	75	Carrollton Twp.	Eaton
"	9	104	Lackawanna	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	15	118	Buckhorn Is. SP	D & D Suggs
"	16	76	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
"	29	292	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Happ(BOS)
<u>Mute Swan</u>	29	2	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
<u>*Gr. White-fr. Goose</u>	27	2	Westfield Twp.	Sundell et al
Snow Goose	1	<u>51</u>	Dunkirk harbor	Flory
"	4,5,7	3,1,3	Iroq. NWR & vicnty	Holmes, Lange, Watson
"	9,29	2	Burgeson WS	Sundell, Madison
"	15,21,25	3,2,10	Yates Twp.	D'Anna et al
*Wood Duck	5F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	6	1	Buffalo	Schultz
Green-winged Teal	7F	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Galas
"	29	30	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
"	29	14	Burgeson WS	Sundell, Richardson
Northern Pintail	7	868	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Galas
*Blue-winged Teal	21F	1	Waterport	D'Anna (BOS)
"	28	2	Pomfret Twp.	Flory, Goetz
*Norther Shoveler	29F	1	Burgeson WS	Sundell et al
Gadwall	8F	3	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	20	6	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
American Wigeon	1F	3	Dunkirk harbor	Flory
"	4	2	Iroquois NWR	Holmes et al
Ring-necked Duck	8,29	98,150	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Watson et al
"	28	<u>400</u>	Pomfret Twp.	Flory, Goetz
Lesser Scaup	14F	4	Dunkirk harbor	Flory et al
"	29	9	L. Ontario-NY	Roberson
Black Scoter	29F	3	Somerset Twp.	Roberson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Black Scoter	29F	3	Shadigee	"
*Surf Scoter	31F	3	Celeron	Sundell et al
White-winged Scoter	21	78	Somerset Twp.	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
Hooded Merganser	28	29	Pomfret Twp.	Flory, Goetz
"	28	55	Barcelona	"
*Turkey Vulture	3F,4,29,31	17,74,145,231	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew et al
"	5	1	Hanover Twp.	Flory
*Osprey	31F	2	over Lackawanna	DiTommaso, D'Anna
Bald Eagle	4-31	1-2 ad.	Iroquois NWR	Many observers
"	6,9	1 ad., 1 imm.	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, Thill et al
"	20	1 imm.	over Lackawanna	DiTommaso
"	25	1 ad.	over Yates Twp.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Northern Goshawk	18F	1 ad.	over Hamburg	Rew
Red-shouldered Hawk	4,29,31	2,63,52	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew et al
"	9,31	15,57	over Lackawanna	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	25	153	Yates Twp.	D'Anna et al
Red-tailed Hawk	6	206	over Hamburg	Rew et al
"	9,31	117,164	over Lackawanna	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Rough-legged Hawk	29	8	Stockton Twp.	Rew, Buck
Merlin	13,16,17,23	1	Buffalo	Schopp
American Coot	21	8	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Galas
Killdeer	3	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	5	43	over Ripley Twp.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
*Dunlin	7	4	Goat Is.	Cooper
Common Snipe	10F,16	1,2	Pomfret Twp.	Moshers
"	25	1	Yates Twp.	Potter, DiTommaso
*American Woodcock	5F	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	5F	1	Sheridan Twp.	R & C Budniewski
"	6	3	Pomfret Twp.	Mosher
Little Gull	23	2	Lewiston	Broderick
"	24,31	2	Queenston, Ont	Roberson
Iceland Gull	1	1	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Glaucous Gull	1	3	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Snowy Owl	1	1	Lewiston Reservoir	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	9	1	Buffalo	Thills
Great Grey Owl	1-9	1	Ellicott Twp.	Sundell et al
Long-eared Owl	1	3	Rock Point PP	Broderick
Short-eared Owl	3	2	Ellicott Twp.	Sundell
"	24	1	Wheatfield Twp.	Galas
"	25	3	Yates Twp.	D'Anna et al
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	1	1	Rock Point PP	Broderick
"	4,10,26	1,1,1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Potter
"	15	1	Golden Hills SP	D'Anna
"	21	1 road kill	Hartland Twp.	Jones
"	25	1	Tonawanda	Galas
"	25	1	Jamestown	Sundell
Red-headed Wdpkr.	4	1	Jamestown	Sundell
Red-bellied Wdpkr	1-31	5 reports	WNY	
*Eastern Phoebe	28F	1	Portland Twp.	Rew, Buck
"	29	1	Stockton Twp.	"
*Tree Swallow	25F	1	Carlton Twp.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Happ (BOS)
Common Raven	25	1	Lost Nation St. Forest	Schooley

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	8 reports	throughout WNY	
Carolina Wren	1	9 reports	throughout WNY	
Winter Wren	1	1	Beaver Is. SP	D & D Suggs
"	3,7,20,24	1	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
"	25	1	Buffalo	Mueller
Golden-cr. Kinglet	4	3	Tifft NP	Watson
"	25	2	Buffalo	Schultz
Hermit Thrush	15F	1	Iroquois NWR	Broderick
Gray Catbird	24	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Mockingbird	15,28	1,1	Ripley Twp.	Flory, Goetz
Cedar Waxwing	25	300	Wilson Twp.	D'Anna et al
Northern Shrike	1,13	1,1	Amity Twp.	V & M Pitzrick
"	7	1	Aurora Twp.	Holmes
"	8	1	Tonawanda WMA	D & D Suggs
"	15	1	Iroquois NWR	Broderick
"	28	1	Pomfret Twp.	Flory, Goetz
Yellow-r. Warbler	12	1	Warsaw Twp.	Kunze
Pine Warbler	8	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Rufous-s. Towhee	8,15	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	18	1	Buffalo	Schultz
*Fox Sparrow	11F	1	Carrollton Twp.	Eaton
"	11F,19,22	1,1,2	Pomfret Twp.(f)	Moshers
"	14-28	5 other rep.	throughout WNY	
Swamp Sparrow	14	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	14	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Lapland Longspur	13,15	8-10,5	Pomfret Twp.	Mosher, Flory et al
"	15	16	Carlton Twp.	D'Anna
"	15,22	6,2	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, D & D Suggs
Snow Bunting	15	18	Crystal Beach, Ont	Thills
"	15	12	Carlton Twp.	D'Anna
"	17	15	Sheldon Twp.	O. Rosche
Eastern Meadowlark	4F	1	Warsaw Twp.	Kunze
"	5	3	Ripley Twp.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Rusty Blackbird	3F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	5	7	Ripley	D'Anna
Purple Finch	1-31	1-2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	9	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	Potter
"	11,22	1,12	Carrollton Twp.	Eaton
"	13,16	1,2	Bliss	D & M Junkin
"	14	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	14-31	1	Wales Twp.(f)	O. Rosche
*Common Redpoll	1	75	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	15	11	Yates Twp.	D'Anna
"	25	37	Carlton Twp.	D'Anna
"	29,30	2	Eggertsville(f)	D & D Suggs
"	31	20	Hanover Twp.	S. Clarke
Pine Siskin	10-20	5-8	Wales Twp.(f)	O. Rosche
"	12	1	Amity Lake(f)	Pitzrick
"	13-29	17 banded	Alfred Twp	Brooks
Evening Grosbeak	1-19	33 max.	Bliss	D & M Junkin
"	11	1	Carrollton Twp.	Eaton
"	14,19,20	3,3,9	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	19,26	9,3	Alfred Twp.	Brooks

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded 124
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue 13
Total for year.137

**Federation of NYS Bird Clubs
Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs will be held September 25-27, 1992 in Oneonta, NY, co-hosted by the Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, the Chenango Bird Club, and the State University College at Oneonta.

The meeting will feature Dr. Roger Tory Peterson as banquet speaker, and will include field trips, workshops and social events. For registration information, contact Andrew Mason, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, RD 1 Box 314, Jefferson, NY 12093.

In addition, submissions for papers for the meetings are being accepted. Papers may deal with any aspect of ornithology and may cover completed research or work in progress. Applications for presentations should include a title, brief abstract of the paper, equipment needed, the applicant's name, address, phone and organizational affiliation, if any. Submit applications to: Dr. William L. Butts, Biology Dept., SUCO, Oneonta, NY 13820. The deadline for applications is August 15, 1992.

BOS MEETINGS

May 27: Discussion and Vote on Mildred Baker McVey inheritance.

June 10: Annual BOS Picnic at Tifft Nature Preserve, results of the Birdathon and presentation of Awards.

The Program Committee currently consists of Tom Berg, Dick Collins, Ed Crohn, Don Ehreneich, Dave Suggs and Mike Galas. Please contact any of the above with your ideas for a program. Anyone wishing to join the committee is welcome. A special Program Committee meeting is being considered for May.

Mike Galas, Chairman

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

May 31: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Vermont & Busti or at 6:15 at the first parking lot on the Canadian side, 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).

- June 3: Wednesday. Whip-Poor-Will trip and dinner. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Vermont & Busti. We will eat at Lotus Garden Restaurant in Port Colborne, Ont., then proceed to Wilson Road which is 4 mi. west on Hwy. 3. Late-comers can meet at the restaurant about 7:30. Leader: Mike Galas (693-4892). Please call him for reservations so that the restaurant will have an approximate number. The restaurant is at 182 West Street on the west bank of the Welland Canal. It is about one block south of the southernmost canal bridge, which is on Clarence Street. They will offer us a variety of very good combination plates at about \$5.00.
- June 10: Thursday. BOS Picnic Meeting at Tifft Nature Preserve. Birding to follow.
- June 20: Saturday. Evening trip to Iroquois N.W.R. Meet at 5:00 p.m. at Amherst Book World (Transit & Main) or at 6:00 p.m. on Sour Springs Road in the Refuge where it crosses Oak Orchard Creek. This should be an excellent opportunity to see nesting Prothonotary Warblers and possibly the Barred Owl. Eat before you leave or bring you supper with you. Leader: Mike Galas (693-4892).
- June 26: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Vermont & Busti or at 7:15 at the first parking lot on the Canadian side, 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).
- Aug. 23: Sunday. Bird Island Pier. Meet at Broderick Park at the foot of Ferry Street at 9:00 a.m. This is a 1/2 day walk along the pier. Leader: Jerry Rising (689-8301).
- Aug. 30: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Vermont & Busti or at 7:15 at the first parking lot on the Canadian side, 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).
- Sept. 6: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve. Meet in the Tifft parking lot at 7:30 a.m. This is a 1/2 day trip for warblers and shorebirds. Leader: Dick Collins (683-3699).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer: Jane Heyer, 296 Westchester Blvd, Kenmore, NY 14217 (875-3318).

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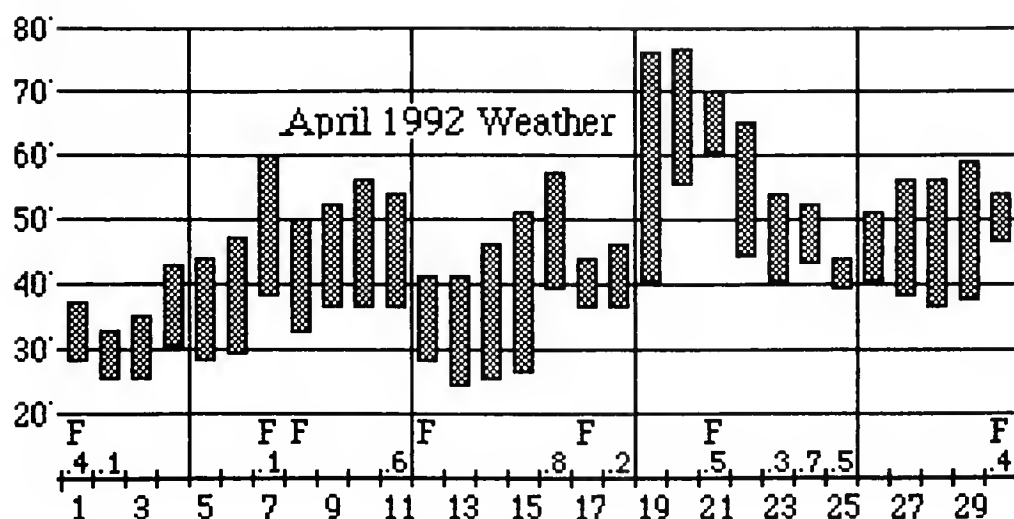
May 1992

Number 5

THE MONTH: April 1992

April was cold. On only six days was the high temperature above normal for that date. Happily for the Easter Parade (and Easter hawk watchers), one of the few pleasant days occurred on the 19th. The average temperature for the month, 43.8°, was 1.6° below normal, and the daily highs were almost three degrees below normal. Pitzrick notes that the ice in Amity Lake that first went out on March 10, refroze on the 13th and did not leave again until April 7.

April was also very damp. Total precipitation was 4.7 inches, 1.6 inches above normal, making the month the seventh wettest April in Buffalo record history. Notice on the chart that almost



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 4th was a Saturday, the 5th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

continuous rain (except for Easter and the next day) from the 16th to the 25th. It caused creeks to run high, but fortunately there was little flooding.

Five inches of snow fell in the first week, but that was finally the end of winter. Thunderstorms did minor damage in the Southern Tier on the 11th and 24th.

Migrants most often depend on southerly, usually here southwest, winds. There were few days with such winds during this month and only one period of consecutive days with such winds. That period was from the 19th to the 23rd.

The end of the month provided no such assistance to migrants. On only the 25th were there very light breezes from the southwest. On other days the winds were mostly from the north.

Exceptional Records. It seems quite remarkable to note that the American White Pelican reported this month is not the first of the year; it is, however, very likely not one of the pair that

remained in Jordan Harbor for at least one and probably both of them died. A probable Cattle Egret was seen in Fort Erie. Two Eurasian Wigeons were reported. As usual, one or two of these lovely birds pass through with baldpates, making it worth while to scrutinize the big flocks of those more common migrants carefully. Best records culled from the hawk flights were a single Northern Goshawk, two Golden Eagles, and a number of Merlins; no Peregrine Falcons, however. Two widely separated Sandhill Crane reports were received and a Common Raven nest was discovered where these birds previously nested in the Southern Tier. Another early Yellow-throated Warbler was reported from the Fredonia area.

Migrants. Here are the arrival dates for some of this year's migrants compared with the common or expected arrival dates given in Beardslee and Mitchell and also compared with the average arrival dates for the past six years. The list does not include species reported earlier this year. Note that the extra coverage of the April Count on the 12th produces many first dates.

Species	1992	B&M	+/-	6 Yr Ave	+/-
American Bittern	April 12	April 3	-9	April 17	+5
Great Egret	April 12	April 19	+7	April 8	-4
Green-backed Heron	April 17	April 22	+5	April 21	+4
Broad-winged Hawk	April 12	April 16	+4	April 13	+1
Virginia Rail	April 17	April 16	-1	April 21	+4
Sora	April 25	April 20	-5	April 24	-1
Common Moorhen	April 17	April 22	+5	April 18	+1
Greater Yellowlegs	April 8	March 30	-9	March 28	-11
Lesser Yellowlegs	April 12	April 6	-6	April 3	-9
Solitary Sandpiper	April 21	April 27	+6	April 28	+7
Spotted Sandpiper	April 12	April 22	+10	April 22	+10
Caspian Tern	April 10	April 22	+12	April 9	-1
Common Tern	April 11	April 14	+3	April 12	+1
Chimney Swift	April 19	April 25	+6	April 23	+4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	April 11	April 2	-9	April 2	-9
Great Crested Flycatcher	April 27	May 2	+5	April 29	+2
Eastern Kingbird	April 25	April 29	+4	April 28	+3
Purple Martin	April 9	April 6	-3	April 11	+2
N Rough-winged Swallow	April 12	April 16	+4	April 12	0
Bank Swallow	April 12	April 22	+10	April 25	+13
Barn Swallow	April 7	April 12	+5	April 7	0
House Wren	April 14	April 27	+13	April 24	+10
Marsh Wren	April 30	May 1	+1	April 6	-24
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	April 6	April 9	+3	April 6	0
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	April 20	April 26	+6	April 22	+2
Wood Thrush	April 24	May 1	+7	April 28	+4
Brown Thrasher	April 19	April 18	-1	April 14	-5
Solitary Vireo	April 18	April 25	+7	April 19	+1
Nashville Warbler	April 24	April 29	+5	April 26	+2
Yellow Warbler	April 24	April 27	+3	April 27	+3
Black-throated Green Warbler	April 24	April 28	+4	April 26	+2
Pine Warbler	April 20	April 20	0	April 21	+1
Palm Warbler	April 26	April 26	0	April 25	-1
Black-and-white Warbler	April 28	April 26	-2	April 27	-1
Northern Waterthrush	April 24	April 29	+5	April 27	+3
Chipping Sparrow	April 8	April 9	+1	April 4	-4
Field Sparrow	April 12	April 2	-10	April 3	-9
Vesper Sparrow	April 12	March 30	-13	April 5	-7
Savannah Sparrow	April 2	April 2	0	April 1	-1
Bobolink	April 28	May 1	+3	April 29	+1
Northern Oriole	April 28	May 1	+3	April 30	+2

If you merely add up the fourth column and divide by the number of species on the list, you arrive at the conclusion that April 1992 was about two days early compared with the Beardslee and Mitchell "average first record" dates, and if you do the same with the last column, you arrive at the conclusion that the season was very close to the average of the past six years. (Those conclusions are only suggestive of course. They would not bear statistical scrutiny.)

That the season was on time is hard to match against field experience this year, but I suspect that it is still a reasonable conclusion. Despite the small numbers of birds trickling through the region this Spring giving us the feeling that the season awaited a break, the few birds that we have been seeing have been reasonably on schedule or in some cases even early.

Comments. Some maxima not on the April 12 Count: 45 Common Loons on the 9th, 300 Horned Grebes on the 1st, 205 Tundra Swans on the 3rd through the 5th, 1800 Lesser Scaups on the 1st, 583 Turkey Vultures on the 7th, 10 Bald Eagles on the 20th, 352 Sharp-shinned Hawks on the 19th, 4882 Broad-winged Hawks on the 19th, and 50 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 21st, all represent April highs for at least seven years. April 12 Count highs over the same seven years include: 349 Double-crested Cormorants, 466 Great Blue Herons, 436 Wood Ducks, 366 Green-winged Teals, 560 Northern Pintails, 375 Blue-winged Teals, 166 Northern Shovelers, 105 Gadwalls, 580 American Wigeons, 1922 Ring-necked Ducks, 1739 Buffleheads, 247 Hooded Mergansers, 54 Ospreys, 145 Northern Harriers, 58 Rough-legged Hawks, 403 Kestrels, 70 Greater Yellowlegs, 102398 Ring-billed Gulls, 8311 Herring Gulls, 3 Iceland Gulls, 5 Glaucous Gulls, 42 Caspian Terns, 34 Great Horned Owls, 135 Purple Martins, 6575 Tree Swallows, 17 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, 132 Barn Swallows, 4 Common Ravens, 15 Carolina Wrens, 23 Winter Wrens, 1805 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 71 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and 250 Purple Finches.

That pleasant weather on the 19th and 20th was taken advantage of by birds as well as observers. That was the time of peak hawk flights with best numbers on those two dates of Ospreys 30, 51; Northern Harriers 33, 0; Sharp-shinned Hawks 352, 233; and Broad-winged Hawks 4882, 3509. Two of the Merlins were seen on the 19th and one of the Golden Eagles on the 20th. Fly-by counts of gulls at Niagara-on-the-Lake produced 4400 Bonaparte's Gulls and a season high (and best ever for observer Bellerby) 26 Little Gulls on the 13th.

The Upland Sandpipers returned to the Clarence Turf Farms, but building in this area continues apace and it should not be long before these lovely birds are turned away from this area.

Potter continues to prize a few Northern Saw-whet Owls out of Ontario lakeshore woods, and Pitzrick reports 25 Eastern Bluebird pairs nesting with not all of the Amity Lake Trail yet surveyed.

It is good to note among Brooks' banding records for the month 95 Purple Finches and 46 Pine Siskins. At least someone is seeing numbers of these birds. On the other hand she was only able to band two Evening Grosbeaks. Ray Budniewski had nine of these still thinly distributed birds.

I cannot conclude this report without calling attention once again to the outstanding coverage given to the Sinking Ponds area near East Aurora by Holmes. She visited this area on all but two days in April. I hope that her records will be compiled and compared from year to year as they provide an excellent local picture of the birds of this region. — G. Rising

Literature Cited

Beardslee, Clark S. and Harold D. Mitchell. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Volume 22, 1965.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	9,22	45,43	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, Andrlé et al
"	30	7	Amity Lake	Pitzrick et al
Pied-billed Grebe	1	10	Celeron	Sundell
"	1	4	East Aurora	Holmes
Horned Grebe	1	300	Celeron	Sundell
Red-necked Grebe	4F	5	Olcott	D'Anna et al
"	4F	2	Wilson Twp.	D'Anna et al
"	7	11	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	22	1	over Hamburg Twp.	Andrlé et al
D.-crest. Cormorant	18	150	Buffalo Harbor	R & K Collins
"	20	210	Dunkirk Harbor	Benham
American Bittern	18	3	Tifft N. P.	R & K Collins
"	18,19,28	2,1,1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	30	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D & D Suggs
Great Blue Heron	11	49	over Buffalo	Galas
Great Egret	26	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Benham
"	27	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	28	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rew, Walker
*Green-backed Heron	17F	1	Tifft N.P.	Galas
"	19	1	Canadaway Creek N.S.	R & C Budniewski
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	1	1	Buffalo	Schultz
"	11	7	Tifft N.P.	Galas
"	14	110	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson
Tundra Swan	3-5	205	Iroq. NWR & Tona. WMA	Many observers
Snow Goose	5	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D & D Suggs
"	11	2	Wilson Twp.	D'Anna
Northern Pintail	5	400	Iroq. NWR & Tona. WMA	D & D Suggs
Northern Shoveler	10	89	Iroq. NWR & Tona. WMA	Roberson
Canvasback	1	200	Celeron	Sundell
Redhead	19	1	Tifft N.P.	Rising, Galas
Ring-necked Duck	10,28	598,491	Tona WMA & Iroq NWR	Roberson
"	11	179	Buffalo	Galas
"	11	400	Pomfret Twp.	D&D Suggs
"	18	87	Smithville, Ont.	Roberson
Greater Scaup	1	1100	Celeron	Sundell
Lesser Scaup	1	1800	Celeron	Sundell
Oldsquaw	1	50	Celeron	Sundell
White-winged Scoter	1	1	Buffalo	Schultz
"	18	3	Mayville	Sundell

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Bufflehead	1	250	Celeron	Sundell
Ruddy Duck	1	6	Celeron	Sundell
"	21	3	East Aurora	Holmes
"	25	13	Bear Lake	Rew, Buck
"	26-29	1-2	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
"	28	5	Lewiston Reservoir	D'Anna
Turkey Vulture	7	583	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, McDonald et al
"	20	<u>226</u>	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, Andrle et al
Osprey	6	1	over Hamburg Twp.	Roberson et al
"	10,19,20	18,30,29	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, McDonald et al
"	18	5	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Galas
"	18	5	Iroquois N.W.R.	Broderick
"	19	21	over Portland Twp.	Rew, Buck
Bald Eagle	7	1 adult	over Hamburg Twp.	Andrle et al
"	20	2 imm.	Cloverbank	Andrle et al
"	20	8	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, McDonald et al
"	22,23	1,1 (imm.'s)	over Hamburg Twp.	Andrle et al
"	28	2	at nest Iroquois N.W.R.	Roberson
Northern Harrier	19	33	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, McDonald et al
Sharp-sh. Hawk	19,20	352,233	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, McDonald et al
Northern Goshawk	14	1 adult	over Hamburg Twp.	Andrle et al
*Broad-winged Hawk	19F	200	Sheridan Twp.	R&C Budniewski
"	19F	636	over Eden & Evans	Andrle et al
"	19F	4	East Aurora	Holmes
"	19F	3250	over Portland Twp.	Rew, Buck
"	19F,20	892,3509	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, McDonald et al
Rough-legged Hawk	10	20	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, McDonald et al
* <u>Golden Eagle</u>	18F	1	Stockton Twp.	Rew, Buck
"	20	1 adult	Hamburg Twp.	McDonald, Sisti
American Kestrel	15,19	26,27	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew, McDonald et al
<u>Merlin</u>	6F	1	over Hamburg Twp.	Rew et al
"	11	1	Eden Twp.	D&D Suggs
"	19	1	Williamsville	Yoerg
"	19	1	Portland Twp.	Rew, Buck
"	29	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Ruffed Grouse	19	1	Tifft N.P.	Galas, Rising
Virginia Rail	17F	1	Tifft N.P.	Galas
"	26	1	East Aurora	Holmes
*Sora	25F	1	Tifft N.P.	Galas, Rosenberg
"	28	1	East Aurora	Holmes
*Common Moorhen	17F	1	Tifft N.P.	Galas
* <u>Sandhill Crane</u>	10	1	Alfred Twp.	E&R Brooks
"	21,22	1	Wilson Twp.	Broderick, Schopp
*Greater Yellowlegs	8F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Holmes (EABC)
"	11	1	Porter Twp.	D'Anna
"	18	5	Smithville, Ont.	Roberson
"	20	13	Eden Twp.	Andrle
Lesser Yellowlegs	18,21	2,50	Smithville, Ont.	Roberson, Bellerby
*Solitary Sandpiper	21F	2	Smithville, Ont.	Bellerby
Spotted Sandpiper	17	1	Times Beach N.P.	Galas
"	18	1	Villanova Twp.	Rew, Buck
Upland Sandpiper	29	1	Clarence Twp.	Rosenburg
Pectoral Sandpiper	18,21	97, <u>150</u>	Smithville, Ont.	Roberson, Bellerby

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Purple Sandpiper	<u>14</u>	6	Goat Island	Watson
Common Snipe	11	<u>100</u>	Eden Twp.	D&D Suggs
American Woodcock	1-26	2-15	Amity Twp.	Pitzrick
Little Gull	13	<u>26</u>	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	30	<u>9</u>	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
Bonaparte's Gull	8	22	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	13	4400	Niag.-on-the-Lake	Bellerby
"	18,30	3000,4500	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
Iceland Gull	5	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton
"	5	1	Buffalo	Hess
"	9	1	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
L. Black-b. Gull	<u>17</u>	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton et al
Glaucous Gull	17	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton
"	30	3	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
*Caspian Tern	10F	1	Tonawanda	M&S Galas
"	11	16	Pomfret Twp.	D&D Suggs
"	18	30	Olcott to Porter	Galas
*Common Tern	11F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	D&D Suggs
"	16	1	Tonawanda Twp.	M&S Galas
*Forster's Tern	<u>30</u>	1	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
Snowy Owl	<u>5</u>	1	Wheatfield Twp.	D'Anna
Long-eared Owl	21	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Roberson
Short-eared Owl	5	3	Pendleton Twp.	Galas
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	4	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Potter et al
"	6	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	Potter
*Chimney Swift	19F	1	Portland Twp.	Rew, Buck
"	23	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Red-headed Wdpkr.	18	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	Galas
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	11F	1	Tifft N.P.	Galas
"	15	1	Amity Lake	V&R Pitzrick
"	15	1	Hamburg Twp.	Holmes
*Gr., Cr. Flycatcher	27F	1	Arkwright Twp.	Budniewski
"	28	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rew, Walker
*Eastern Kingbird	25F	3	Tifft N.P.	Galas
"	29	1	Yates Twp.	D'Anna
Horned Lark				
<u>E. a. alpestris</u>	1	1	Somerset Twp.	Hess
"	5L	3	Wilson Twp.	D'Anna
*Purple Martin	9F	2	Hamburg Twp.	Rew et al
"	21	3	Pendleton Twp.	Rosenburg
N. Rough-w. Swallow	19	1	Evans Twp.	Andrle
"	20	1	Buffalo	Mueller
Bank Swallow	28	1	Porter Twp.	D'Anna
*Barn Swallow	7F	2	Hamburg Twp.	Holmes
"	16	2	East Aurora	Holmes
<u>Common Raven</u>	23	2 at nest	Ward Twp.	Brooks
Tufted Titmouse	1-30	8	reports throughout WNY	
Brown Creeper	11	24	Tifft N.P.	D&D Suggs, Galas
Carolina Wren	1-30	6	reports throughout WNY	
*House Wren	<u>14F</u>	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	22	1	Jamestown	Sundell
"	25	1	Beaver Meadow W.R.	Kunze
Winter Wren	4	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Winter Wren	7	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton
*Marsh Wren	30F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D&D Suggs
Golden-cr. Kinglet	7	33	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	111	Tifft N.P.	Galas
*Ruby-cr. Kinglet	6F	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
"	11	9	Tifft N.P.	Galas
*Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	20F	2	East Aurora	Holmes, Ruhl
Hermit Thrush	11	7	Tifft N.P.	Galas
*Wood Thrush	24F	1	Wales Twp.	O. Rosche
"	27	1	Arkwright Twp.	Budniewski
Northern Mockingbird	3	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	26	1	Tifft N.P.	Collins et al
Brown Thrasher	19F	1	Sheridan Twp.	R&C Budniewski
"	20	1	Cloverbank	Andrle et al
"	20	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
*American Pipit	11F	175	Eden Twp.	D&D Suggs
Cedar Waxwing	26	165	Iroquois N.W.R.	Benham
Northern Shrike	4	1	Clarence Twp.	D&D Suggs
"	5	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D&D Suggs
"	7L	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
*Solitary Vireo	18F	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	Galas
"	19	1	Yorkshire Twp.	Chilton
*Nashville Warbler	24F	1	Amity Twp.	Pitzrick
"	26	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
"	29	1	Jamestown	Sundell
*Yellow Warbler	24F	1	Tifft N. P.	Mueller (EABC)
"	26	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	26	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton
Yellow-r. Warbler	7F	1	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna
"	14	1	Buffalo	Hess
*Bl-thr. Green Warbler	24F	2	Amity Twp.	Pitzrick
"	29	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Pine Warbler	20F	1	Jamestown	Sundell
"	25	1	Tifft N.P.	Galas, Rosenberg
"	26	1	Beaver Meadow W.R.	Kunze
"	28	2	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna
*Palm Warbler	26F	2	Beaver Meadow W.R.	O. Rosche
"	28	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna
*Bl.-and-w. Warbler	28F	2	Tifft N.P.	D&D Suggs
"	29	2	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna
*Northern Waterthrush	24F	1	Tifft N.P.	Mueller (EABC)
Rufous-s. Towhee	21	5	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton
Amer. Tree Sparrow	22	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
*Chipping Sparrow	8F	1	Amity Twp.	V&R Pitzrick
"	10	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Field Sparrow	14	1	Hamburg Twp.	Holmes, Ruhl
"	18	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Galas
"	18	1	Wales Twp.	O. Rosche
Vesper Sparrow	14	4	Hamburg Twp.	Holmes, Rew et al
*Savannah Sparrow	2F	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	9	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Fox Sparrow	17	1	Goat Island	Broderick
"	26	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
White-cr. Sparrow	7	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Potter
"	30F	5	Wales Twp.(f)	O. Rosche
Dark-eyed Junco	17	87	Times Beach N.P.	Galas
*Bobolink	28F	1	Sheridan Twp.	C. Budniewski
"	30	3	Clarence Twp.	D&D Suggs
*Northern Oriole	28F	1	Beaver Is. S. P.	Chilton
Common Redpoll	5	1	Youngstown	Broderick
Pine Siskin	1-30	46 banded	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	1-30	7	other rep. throughout WNY	
Evening Grosbeak	2-28	11 max.	Bliss	D&M Junkin
"	6-27	1-2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	17	2	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	19-30	4-10	Wales Twp. (f)	O. Rosche
"	26	9	Charlotte Twp.	Budniewski

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded 137
 Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue . (in.cl April Bird Count + 1 March) 44
 Total for year.181

1992 B. O. S. April Bird Count

April 12, 1992

Weather: AM - Mostly overcast in the morning with temps in high 20's to high 30's. Some light rain & snow in some territories. Winds moderate to heavy.

PM _ Clearing in the afternoon with temps in the low to mid 40's with moderate to high winds.

COMPILATION:

The following is a list of species on the count followed by the total number observed. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses. Underlined names indicate species for which an acceptable written verification was received. F represents first date for spring migration * represents first date for the year.

LOONS - DUCKS

Common Loon - 30
 Pied-billed Grebe - 134
 Horned Grebe - 155
 Red-necked Grebe - 1 (26)
 Double-cr. Cormorant - 349
 *American Bittern - F- 2 (11, 20)
 Great Blue Heron - 366
 Great Egret - 2 (22)
 Black-cr. Night-Heron - 49 (2, 4, 11)
 Tundra Swan - 100
 Mute Swan - 5 (2, 7, 8)
 Snow Goose - 1 (4)

Northern Shoveler - 166
 Gadwall - 105
 American Wigeon - 580
 *Eurasian Wigeon - 1 (10)
 Canvasback - 97
 Redhead 26
 Ring-necked Duck - 1922
 Greater Scaup - 1480
 Lesser Scaup- 487
 unidentified scaup - 51
 Oldsquaw - 462
 White-winged Scoter - 19

Canada Goose - 32,458
Wood Duck - 436
Green-winged Teal - 366
American Black Duck - 127
Mallard - 1794
Northern Pintail - 560
Blue-winged Teal - 375

Common Goldeneye - 318
Bufflehead - 1739
Hooded Merganser - 247
Common Merganser - 627
Red-breasted Merganser - 1622
Ruddy Duck - 1 (22)

RAPTORS - RAILS

Turkey Vulture - 437
Osprey - 54
Bald Eagle - 1 (10)
Northern Harrier - 145
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 75
Cooper's Hawk - 18
Red-shouldered Hawk - 122
Broad-winged Hawk - 1 (19)
Red-tailed Hawk - 316

Rough-legged Hawk - 58
American Kestrel - 403
unidentified hawks - 3
Ring-necked Pheasant - 30
Ruffed Grouse - 39
Wild Turkey - 120
American Coot - 122
Sandhill Crane - 1 (3)

PLOVERS - TERNS

Killdeer - 378
Greater Yellowlegs - 70
*Lesser Yellowlegs - F - 18
*Spotted Sandpiper - F - 1 (25)
*Upland Sandpiper - F - 1 (3)
Pectoral Sandpiper - 173 (1, 3)
Common Snipe - 63
American Woodcock - 27
little Gull - 6 (2, 3)

Bonaparte's Gull - 6,337
Ring-billed Gull - 102,398
Herring Gull - 8,311
Iceland Gull - 3 (2, 20)
Glaucous Gull - 5 (14, 20)
Great Black-backed Gull - 160
Lesser Black-backed Gull - 1 (9)
Caspian Tern - 42
Common Tern - 1 (20)

DOVES - SWALLOWS

Rock Dove - 1772
Mourning Dove - 1475
Great Horned Owl - 34
Snowy Owl - 1 (11)
Barred Owl - 2 (20)
Long-eared Owl - 2 (1)
Short-eared Owl - 1 (19)
Northern Saw-whet Owl - 1 (3)
Belted Kingfisher - 100
Red-headed Woodpecker - 4 (5)
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 103
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker - 14

Downy Woodpecker - 246
Hairy Woodpecker - 59
Northern Flicker - 248
Pileated Woodpecker - 12
Eastern Phoebe - 162
Horned Lark - 173
Purple Martin - 135
Tree Swallow - 6,575
*North. Rough-w. Swallow - F - 17 (20, 23)
*Bank Swallow - F - 18 (6, 8, 16)
Barn Swallow - 789

JAYS - STARLINGS

Blue Jay - 789
American Crow - 2,787
Common Raven - 4 (28)
Black-capped Chickadee - 1,193
Tufted Titmouse - 38

Ruby-cr. Kinglet - 71
Eastern Bluebird - 98
Hermit Thrush - 14
American Robin - 6,788
Gray Catbird - 1 (5)

Red-br. Nuthatch - 25
White-br. Nuthatch - 144
Brown Creeper - 128
Carolina Wren - 15
Winter Wren - 23
Golden-cr. Kinglet - 1,805

Northern Mockingbird - 15
American Pipet - 42 (1, 23)
Cedar Waxwing - 433
Northern Shrike - 2 (9, 28)
European Starling - 20,951

WARBLERS - FINCHES

Yellow-rumped Warbler - 23
Northern Cardinal - 533
Rufous-sided Towhee - 1 (9)
American Tree Sparrow - 285
Chipping Sparrow - 41
*Field Sparrow - F - 15
*Vesper Sparrow - 19
Savannah Sparrow - 13
Fox Sparrow - 21
Song Sparrow - 1,942
Swamp Sparrow - 18
White-throat. Sparrow - 86
White-cr. Sparrow - 4 (20, 27)

Dark-eyed Junco - 2,100
Red-winged Blackbird - 10,189
Eastern Meadowlark - 132
Rusty Bluebird - 239
Common Grackle 6,913
Brown-head. Blackbird - 1,564
Purple Finch - 250
House Finch - 1,815
Pine Siskin - 139
American Goldfinch - 826
Evening Grosbeak - 169
House Sparrow - 1,511

STATISTICS

Species Count - 139 - Above Average

Individuals - 242,608 - Above Average

Observers - 234 - Below Average

RECORD HIGH COUNTS:

Total - 23

- Double Crested Cormorant - 349
- Great Blue Heron - 466
- Mute Swan - 5
- Green-winged Teal - 366
- Wood Duck - 436 (5 yrs, straight)
- Northern Shoveler - 166
- Gadwall - 105
- Ring-necked Duck - 1922
- Osprey - 54
- Northern Harrier - 145
- American Kestrel - 403
- Sandhill Crane - 1 (First Ever)
- Greater Yellowlegs - 70
- Ring-billed Gull - 102,398
- Glaucous Gull - 5 (Tie)
- Lesser Black-backed Gull - 1
- Caspian Tern - 42
- Great Horned Owl - 34
- Tree Swallow - 6,575
- Common Raven - 4
- Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1,805
- Northern Mockingbird - 15 (Tie)

OTHER HIGH COUNTS:

Total -13

- Pied-billed Grebe - 134 (2nd High)
- Northern Pintail - 560 (10 yr. High)
- Blue-winged Teal - 375 (10 yr. High)
- Bufflehead - 1,739 (20 yr. High)
- Lesser Yellowlegs - 18 (10 yr. High)
- Herring Gull - 8,311 (10 yr. High)
- Purple Martin - 135 (10 yr. High)
- N. Rough-w. Swallow - 17 (10 yr. High)
- Barn Swallow - 132 (10 yr. High)
- Carolina Wren - 15 (2nd Highest)
- Winter Wren - 23 (10 yr. High)
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 71 (10 yr. High)
- Northern Shrike - 2 (10 yr. High)

LOW COUNTS:

Total - 9

- Killdeer - 373 (10 yr. Low)
- Red-bellied Woodpecker - 10 (10 yr. Low)
- Downy Woodpecker - 246 (30 yr. Low)
- White-b. Nuthatch - 144 (10 yr. Low)
- American Robin - 6,788 (10 yr. Low)
- Brown Thrasher - 0 (All Time Low)
- Rufous-s. Towhee - 1 (Tied All Time Low)
- Common Grackle - 6913 (35 yr. Low)
- House Sparrow - 1511 940 yr. Low)

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS:

Total - 6

- Great Egret - 2
- Eurasian Wigeon - 1
- Upland Sandpiper - 1
- Little Gull - 6
- Iceland Gull - 3
- Northern Saw-whet Owl

OBSERVERS: Compilers names are underlined.

- 1) Davis Cooper , Gary Novosel
- 2) Robert Wagner, John Filer
- 3) Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter, Walter and Harriet Klabunde
- 4) William Watson, Dean DiTommaso
- 5) Dick Christensen, Peg Christensen, Gail Seamans, Marion Smith, Morgan Jones, Bill Burch, Don Brasure
- 6) Joe Thill, , Bob Andrie
- 7) Marcy Foster, Drew Campbell
- 8) Mike Zebehazy, Ellen Schopp, Jane Heyer, Margaret Stewart, Alice McKale
- 9) Don Roberson, Barb Henderson, Tom Burke, Ed Crohn, Mary Ann Stegmeir, Tom Insalaco
- 10) Dick Collins, Mike Galas, Jerry Rising,

- 11) Sharon Sisti, Charles & Barb Halvorsen
- 12) Ann Bauer, Tom Harper, Ray Franz, Linda Holmes, Dorothy Danner, Donna Wiand,
- 13) Joe DiDomenico, Diane DiDomenico, Robert & Eileen Hull
- 14) Barbara Walker, Ken & Barb Brandes, Louis Abbott, Phyllis Hansen, Doug Happ, Adelaide Hunley, B & L Leonard, B & E Mauser, Tom Connare, Marian Dornhaffer, Gene Longbine, Sandy Radigan, Sharon Sisti
- 15) Bill Bogacki, Art & Olga Rosche
- 16) Fran Rew, Gil & Mary Lang, Lois Buck
- 17) Wavel & Maxine Barber, Audrey Horbett, Ray Uhl
- 18) Bruce Chilton
- 19) Katherine Palmer, & Edna Marvin, F. Clancey, R. Andrews, H. Morse, Mr. & Mrs. R. Nicholson, V. Rice, E. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. E. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. O. Williams, A. Evans, L. Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. R. Wilson, L. Hotchkiss, T. Clark, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholson.
- 20) Terry Mahoney, D & K Bryant, C & R. Budniewski, S. Clarke, P. Farver, J. Flory, J. Goetz, J. Gula Sr., D. Klaybor, T. Mahoney, G. Mezzio, T. Mosher, D & L Neveu, B. Ruska, M. Sanden, A. Schafer, K. Stoll, T. Taft, Sr., D & T Welch
- 21) Bob Sundell, D. Cordosi, J. Heilman, R. Laha, C. Roby, J. Nelson
- 22) Bob Sundell, D. Cardosi, B. O'Brien
- 23) Bob Sundell, D. Cardosi, S & J Maggio, J. & M. Pigman, T. Simons
- 24) Tim Baird, Bert Schweigert
- 25) Tim Baird, L. Bordonaro, A. Church, J. & R Van Scoy, M. Green, A. Knittle, C. Wales
- 26) Doris Burton, B Smally, A. & M Scott, M. Jordan, B Smalley
- 27) Doris Burton, D. Hulbert, E & D King, L. Simons, G. Lundberg, J. Dickenson, W. Sanford, N. Ives, H. Link, M. Barnett, B & C James, D. Converso
- 28) Doris Burton, E. Brooks, C. Coch, R. Allen, P. Culley, E. Cushing, L. Deverell, A. & R. Eisenhardt, C. & P. Gradoni, C. & M. Klingensmith, B., M., R. & H. Alfred, C. MacDonald, M. Ormsby, L. & T. Palmiter, M. Peterson, B. Pipal, D. & P. Rase, C. Sheverly, E. Thomas, D. & F. Bayless, L. & D. Brink, M. Hayes, B. & W. Kellogg, V. Sharrett, M. & L. Soule, R. Allen, E. & K. Kent, M. & K. McClure, C. Stephens, B. Thompson, C. & B. Burdick, G. & A. Dunham, E. Larson, W. & F. Thompson, M. & M. Adams, D. Burton, S. Hotchkiss, R. & V. Pitzrick, J. & C. Browning, E. Coats, D. Ramsey, P. & M. Fuller, B. & C. James, L. Rositzke, T. Vossler, O. Reynolds, W. Franklin

Compiler: RICHARD COLLINS

FROM FARTHER AFIELD

The July/August 1992 issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest* (pp 121-122) has information about the Newburyport Birder's Exchange. This is a group of birders who use computers for their listing and record keeping. The address is: NBE, 8 Columbia Way, Plum Island, MA 01951.

The same issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest* also contains an informative article by Bill Burch (pg. 80) on making an lens cover for your spotting scope.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Congratulations to the following new
Active Members:

H.M. Bateman
Donald Brasure
Dr. Donald Ehrenrich
Victoria Onorato
Charles Rosenberg
Margret Stuart

Welcome to the Following New Associate Member

Ms. Roberta Vallone
39 Donald Drive
West Seneca, NY 14224
Tel. 674-9472

BOS MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December.
Meetings begin at

8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

Don't forget, the highlight of our first meeting in September is "Summer (and other) Birding Adventures of our Members." Plan to bring and share slides of your special birding moments.

FIELD TRIPS

June 20: Saturday. Evening trip to Iroquois N.W.R. Meet at 5:00 p.m. at Amherst Book World (Transit & Main) or at 6:00 p.m. on Sour Springs Road in the Refuge where it crosses Oak Orchard Creek. This should be an excellent opportunity to see nesting Prothonotary Warblers and possibly the Barred Owl. Eat before you leave or bring you supper with you. Leader: Mike Galas (693-4892).

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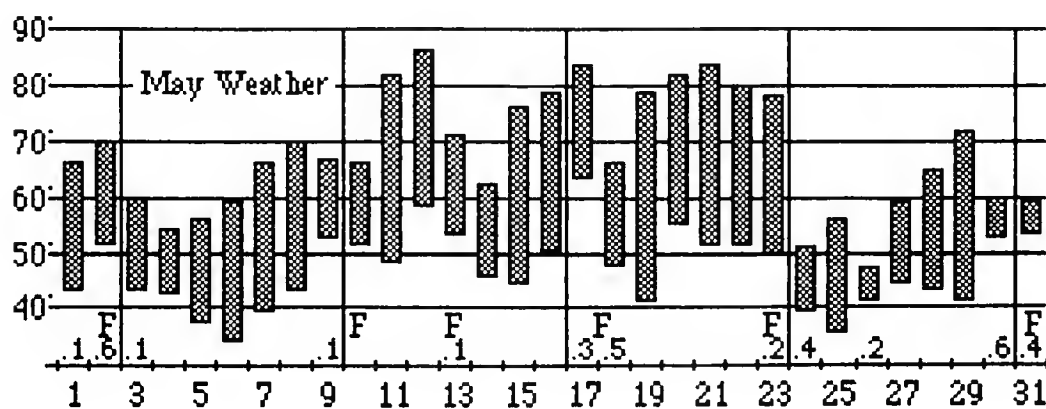
June 1992

Number 6

THE MONTH: May 1992

Once again the summary data does not tell the story very well. The temperature average for the month was 57.3° , 1.2° above normal for May, but compare on the chart the beginning and end of the month to those middle two weeks. The two week period from the 10th to the 23rd averaged 8° above normal and the period from the 24th to the 31st averaged 9° below. Temperature extremes: on the 12th the 86° tied the record high set in 1953; on the 25th the 35° low tied 1975; and on the 26th the 47° maximum established a new low max for that date. There was even a killing frost in interior valleys on the mornings of the 25th and 26th. Lake Erie ended the month at 49° , 5° below normal and 17° below last year's 66° at the same time.

The May precipitation total was 3.5 inches, 0.6 above normal, but those data also masked wide swings. From the 4th to the 22nd only about an inch of rain fell creating dry conditions, but the ground was thoroughly soaked on the final weekend.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 2nd was a Saturday, the 3rd a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

The seasonable weather of the first ten days of May kept foliage partly in check and last year's jungle conditions did not occur so early, but the hot weather that followed quickly completed the greenery.

Winds were southerly on these dates: 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17 (May Count), 20, 22, 23, and 30; however, the conditions never seemed right for good flights of passerines. Judging only from the chart, it would seem that the fronts of

the night of May 17-18 and the one of the 23rd might have brought in and stopped birds. Unfortunately the following days of rain and lower temperatures also grounded most birders and made observation difficult for the few who could get out.

Exceptional Records. As birds of the month it is certainly hard to beat the pair of beautiful adult American White Pelicans, first reported by Endres and subsequently seen by many observers in the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, but recall the single pelican last month and the pair in January at Jordan Harbor. (Is this species on its way to becoming a ho-hum bird?) There were in addition several other very interesting records: among them a late Snow Goose, a Hudsonian Godwit, two Laughing Gulls, a Western Meadowlark, and two Orchard Orioles. And there were a number of other observations that were either undocumented or not complete enough to meet the appropriately strict standards of the B.O.S. Statisticians: a Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a Golden Eagle, a King Rail, and a Summer Tanager.

Migrants. Here is the final listing of arrival dates for some of this year's migrants compared with the common or expected arrival dates given in Beardslee and Mitchell and also compared with the average arrival dates for the past six years. The list does not include species reported earlier this year. Note that the extra coverage of the May Count on the 17th affects the records. Plus values represent early arrivals and minus late.

Species	1992	B&M	+/-	6 Yr Ave	+/-
Black-bellied Plover	May 16	May 15	-1	May 15	-1
Semipalmated Plover	May 12	May 13	+1	May 7	-5
Whimbrel	May 31	May 21	-10	May 24	-7
Ruddy Turnstone	May 17	May 17	0	May 17	0
Red Knot	May 24	May 24	0	May 20	-4
Sanderling	May 24	May 17	-7	May 21	-3
Semipalmated Sandpiper	May 17	May 14	-3	May 15	-2
Least Sandpiper	May 2	May 10	+8	May 4	+2
White-rumped Sandpiper	May 17	May 15	-2	May 20	+3
Dunlin	May 1	May 4	+3	May 2	+1
Short-billed Dowitcher	May 17	May 18	+1	May 14	-3
Black Tern	May 10	May 3	-7	May 6	-4
Black-billed Cuckoo	May 14	May 8	-6	May 11	-3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	May 17	May 14	-3	May 18	+1
Common Nighthawk	May 12	May 11	-1	May 15	+3
Whip-poor-will	May 3	April 27	-6	May 10	+7
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	May 11	May 6	-5	May 9	-2
Olive-sided Flycatcher	May 17	May 16	-1	May 16	-1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	May 12	May 13	+1	May 13	+1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	May 12	May 16	+4	May 15	+3
Acadian Flycatcher	May 17	May 20	+3	May 17	0
Alder Flycatcher	May 17	May 17	0	May 15	-2
Willow Flycatcher	May 16	May 17	+1	May 15	-1
Least Flycatcher	May 2	May 2	0	May 1	-1
Cliff Swallow	May 2	April 22	-10	May 5	+3
Veery	May 2	May 3	+1	Apr 30	-3
Gray-cheeked Thrush	May 17	May 13	-4	May 14	-3
Swainson's Thrush	May 12	May 4	-8	May 8	-4
Gray Catbird	May 2	April 29	-3	Apr 27	-5
White-eyed Vireo	May 13	May 5	-8	May 12	-1
Yellow-throated Vireo	May 9	May 6	-3	May 6	-3
Warbling Vireo	May 2	May 2	0	May 1	-1
Philadelphia Vireo	May 13	May 13	0	May 12	-1
Red-eyed Vireo	May 8	May 9	+1	May 8	0
Blue-winged Warbler	May 3	May 6	+3	May 1	-2
Golden-winged Warbler	May 9	May 7	-2	May 7	-2
"Brewster's Warbler"	May 22	May 13	-9	May 14	-8
Tennessee Warbler	May 10	May 9	-1	May 8	-2
Northern Parula	May 9	May 8	-1	May 10	+1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	May 2	May 4	+2	May 3	+1
Magnolia Warbler	May 4	May 3	-1	May 4	0

Species	1992	B&M	+/-	6 Yr Ave	+/-
Cape May Warbler	May 8	May 6	-2	May 6	-2
Black-throated Blue Warbler	May 2	May 5	+3	May 2	0
Blackburnian Warbler	May 2	May 3	+1	May 2	0
Prairie Warbler	May 12	May 8	-4	May 8	-4
Bay-breasted Warbler	May 12	May 9	-3	May 7	-5
Blackpoll Warbler	May 17	May 15	-2	May 15	-2
Cerulean Warbler	May 11	May 9	-2	May 7	-4
American Redstart	May 9	May 4	-5	May 5	-4
Prothonotary Warbler	May 23	May 9	-14	May 19	-4
Ovenbird	May 2	May 2	0	May 1	-1
Louisiana Waterthrush	May 17	April 23	-36	May 1	-16
Mourning Warbler	May 12	May 11	-1	May 13	+1
Common Yellowthroat	May 3	May 3	0	May 3	0
Hooded Warbler	May 12	May 10	-2	May 10	-2
Wilson's Warbler	May 10	May 14	+4	May 12	+2
Canada Warbler	May 12	May 9	-3	May 12	0
Scarlet Tanager	May 11	May 5	-6	May 5	-6
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 3	May 3	0	Apr 30	-4
Indigo Bunting	May 16	May 9	-7	May 10	-6
Grasshopper Sparrow	May 10	April 24	-16	May 7	-3
Henslow's Sparrow	May 17	April 27	-20	May 11	-6
Lincoln's Sparrow	May 10	May 6	-4	May 7	-3

Comments. The following rather complicated summary of May Count data does convey a message if you look at it carefully. Notice that the high counts and percentages are for the non-passerines, the passerines showing a decidedly mixed picture. The column on the far right displays

Species	1992 Count	83-92 Decade Ave	%above Decade Ave	35-92 56 Yr Ave	%above 35-92 Ave	35-92 56 Yr Max	% of 35-92 Max
Loons, Grebes, Cormorants	475	152	213%	56	748%	475	100%
Hérons	416	342	22%	262	59%	843	49%
Swans, Geese, Ducks	3340	2409	39%	1102	203%	3340	100%
Hawks and Owls	1194	572	109%	282	324%	1194	100%
Gruiformes	179	181	-1%	205	-13%	378	47%
Shorebirds	725	988	-27%	866	-16%	1997	36%
Gulls and Terns	18282	14149	29%	6079	201%	24579	74%
Woodpeckers	503	621	-19%	585	-14%	1503	33%
Flycatchers	1042	1047	0%	772	35%	1491	70%
Swallows	4561	6147	-26%	4817	-5%	12457	37%
Chickadees to Gnatcatchers	1406	1411	0%	922	52%	1959	72%
Thrushes	5911	6297	-6%	4170	42%	8079	73%
Mimic Thrushes	790	774	2%	704	12%	1406	56%
Vireos	443	455	-3%	333	33%	964	46%
Warblers	4014	4017	0%	3493	15%	7055	57%
Tanagers to Buntings	1543	1323	17%	836	85%	2179	71%
Sparrows	3007	3492	-14%	3457	-13%	8067	37%
Icterids	12197	13508	-10%	12689	-4%	30150	40%
Finches	3490	3510	-1%	2442	43%	6822	51%
Foreign Introductions*	8415	9712	-13%	9895	-15%	12424	68%
Native Non-Passerines	27021	21196	27%	10505	157%	32411	83%
Native Passerines	40416	43890	-8%	36232	12%	74092	55%

percents of the best count totals. Here you can see that many of the counts are down to about half of their earlier numbers. Included are woodpeckers, swallows, mimic thrushes, vireos, warblers, sparrows, blackbirds, and finches: not an encouraging picture.

On the plus side, a movement of hawks on May 17th that was picked up by Endres in Sections 5 and 6 contributed several record high totals to the B.O.S. May Count. And we continue to find excellent waterfowl numbers in direct contradiction to the situation in other parts of the United States and Canada. (In the case of Canada Geese I judge the situation locally to be too good.)

I expect that many of you had May experiences similar to my own in the field. The birds did pass through and almost all species were represented, but the numbers were small. Williamsville Glen records support this personal observation with high counts of individuals falling far below those of previous years.

Some noteworthy numbers: the 114 Black-crowned Night Herons in the rookery just above Niagara Falls, the 453 Double-crested Cormorants on the May Count — counts for this species were in single digits until 1983 — and the 16 Prairie Warblers on the May Count together with a note from one observer recommending that this species no longer require a verification because they were so widely distributed across the Southern Tier.

At the end of this month's report I return to the subject of weather. Rich Wells writes from Springville: "No factor has as much effect on nesting success of bluebirds than the weather. Cold wet weather makes it extremely difficult for adult bluebirds to feed (insects) and brood their young. This spring from May 24-31, southern Erie and northern Cattaraugus counties had some unusually cold weather. May 24 started off with rain and damp cold weather. The daytime high was in the 40s. As the skies cleared, frost was reported on May 25, 26, and 27. Reports of 22° on May 25 were common. During this time period I had 18 nestings of bluebirds with young ranging from one day to two weeks of age. Thirteen of these nests were completely lost (all nestlings) totaling 53 young. Five nestings were at least partially successful losing ten young but fledging eleven. This is about a 30% success rate which is well below my seven year total of 69%." He goes on to decry the difficulties faced by these birds in their June second attempts, problems that readers are already aware of and that will contribute a sad note to next month's column as well.— G. Rising

Literature Cited

Beardslee, Clark S. and Harold D. Mitchell. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Volume 22, 1965.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- * - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
* <u>Red throated Loon</u>	19	1	Cuba Lake	M. Pitzrick
<u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	9,16	1,2	Tonawanda WMA	Endres
"	10-11,16-24	1,2	"	DiTommaso, many obs.
D.-crest. Cormorant	2	7	Cheektowaga Twp.	Rising et al
"	8,13	3 on nests	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson
"	14,28	23,3	Allegheny Reservoir	Sundell et al
"	16	150	over Tifft NP	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
D.-crest Cormorant	16,22	1,1	Iroquois NWR	Tiller, Anderson
"	24,30	350,290	Rock Point PP	D'Anna
American Bittern	3,9,10	1,1,1	Tifft NP	Watson, Collins et al
"	9	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess
"	10,28	5,5	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Rosenburg et al
*Least Bittern	11F	1	Iroquois NWR	Collins
"	23	1	Tonawanda WMA	Potter et al
"	23,24	1,1	Tonawanda WMA	Rising et al
Great Egret	2	1	Times Beach, Bflo.	D'Anna
"	2	1	Tifft NP	D'Anna
"	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Rising et al
"	25	1	Tonawanda WMA	Chilton, Broderick
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	2	114	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Cooper, Robinson
"	12	3	Beaver Is. SP	Chilton
Tundra Swan	14	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Sundell
"	14,23,24L	1,1,1	Iroquois NWR	Tiller, D'Anna et al
Green-winged Teal	16	19	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	20	1	Amity Twp.	M. Pitzrick
"	27	1	Napoli Twp.	Eaton
Northern Pintail	31	4	Iroq NWR & Tona WMA	D & D Suggs
Northern Shoveler	12,16	21,2	Tonawanda WMA	Roberson, Rising et al
Gadwall	7	52	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
Canvasback	10L	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Ring-necked Duck	1L	12	Tifft NP	D & D Suggs
Greater Scaup	7,10	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	9	1	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	16L	2	Tifft NP.	D&D Suggs
Lesser Scaup	22L	1	Cuba Twp.	M. Pitzrick
Oldsquaw	16	250	Carlton Twp.	D'Anna
Common Goldeneye	7,15L	2	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	11	1	Buckhorn Is. S. P.	D&D Suggs
Bufflehead	28L	1	Cold Spring Twp.	Sundell et al
Common Merganser	16	6	Niagara Falls	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	29-31	1	Allegany S.P.	Sundell
Ruddy Duck	1-3	2	Tifft N.P.	D&D Suggs et al
Osprey	2,23	6,1	over Hamburg Twp.	Andrle
"	23,24	1,1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Rising, Watson et al
"	27L	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Holmes et al
Bald Eagle	10,16	1,2 adults	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	11	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Holmes
"	16	2 imm.	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	24	2 adults	over Alabama Twp.	Endres
Broad-winged Hawk	23L	1	over Hamburg Twp.	Andrle
Rough-legged Hawk	16	2	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna
*Black-bellied Plover	16F	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson, Collins et al
*Semipalm. Plover	12F, 16-31	5,16 max.	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Roberson, many observ.
"	16	6	Yates Twp.	D'Anna
Greater Yellowlegs	1	20	Smithville, Ont.	Cooper
"	23L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	D'Anna et al
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	25	Cambria Twp.	D&D Suggs
"	24L	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rising et al
Solitary Sandpiper	6	1	East Aurora	Holmes (EABC)
"	9	1	Carrollton Twp.	Eaton

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Solitary Sandpiper	9	8	Carlton & Yates	Listman
Upland Sandpiper	3	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rising et al
"	30	1	Cambria Twp.	C. Rosenberg
*Whimbrel	31F	2	Rock Point P.P.	Watson, Byron (BOS)
* <u>Hudsonian Godwit</u>	23	1	Tonawanda W.M.A.	House, Derleth
Ruddy Turnstone	24	15	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
"	24	18	Morgan's Point, Ont.	D'Anna
"	24	1	Lake Erie S.P.	Flory
*Red Knot	24F,30,31	3,7,7	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Wagner et al
*Sanderling	24F,31	1,6	Lake Erie S.P.	Flory
"	30	1	Crescent Beach, Ont.	D'Anna
"	30,31	10,18	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Watson et al
Semipalm. Sandpiper	23	10	Iroquois N.W.R.	Tiller
"	24	15	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
*Least Sandpiper	2F	3	Eden Twp.	D&D Suggs
"	14	2	East Aurora	Holmes, Mueller
"	16	33	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson
White-r. Sandpiper	30,31	3,2	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Wagner et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	1,24L	10,1	Smithville, Ont.	Cooper, D'Anna et al
Purple Sandpiper	3,7,12L	6,2,2	Goat Island	D'Anna
"	8	7	Goat Island	Watson
Dunlin	1F	3	Smithville, Ont.	Cooper
"	16	8	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson
"	24	250	Tonawanda W.M.A.	House, Derleth, Wagner
Short-b. Dowitcher	24	7	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Wagner et al
*Wilson's Phalarope	31	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Listman, D&D Suggs
* <u>Laughing Gull</u>	9	1	Times Beach, Buffalo	DiTommaso, Watson
"	24	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna et al
Little Gull	1,5L	5,1	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
Iceland Gull	24L	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
Caspian Tern	2	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson, Cooper
"	5	12	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
"	30,31	3,1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Wagner et al
*Black Tern	10F-31	2-10	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Watson, Holmes et al
*Black-billed Cuckoo	14F	2	Lewiston Twp.	Cooper et al
"	14F	1	Amity Lake	V&M Pitzrick
"	16	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rising et al
Snowy Owl	15L	1	Buffalo	S. Galas et al
*Common Nighthawk	12F	2	East Aurora	Holmes
*Whip-poor-will	3F,7	1,1	Sheridan Twp.	R&C Budniewski
Chimney Swift	27	260	Buffalo	D'Anna
*Ruby-t. Hummingbird	11F	1	Sheridan Twp.	R&C Budniewski
"	12	1	Wales Twp.	O. Rosche
Red-headed Wdpkr,	9	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	1-31	11	reports W.N.Y.	
Olive-s. Flycatcher	19	1	Goat Island	Roberson
"	24	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Endres
*Eastern Wood-Pewee	12F	1	Williamsville Glen	Roberson
"	16	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	16	2	Tifft N.P.	D&D Suggs, Watson
*Yellow-b. Flycatcher	12F	1	Tifft N.P.	DiTommaso
"	13	1	Buffalo	Collins, Byron
"	18	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	24	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
"	25	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna
Acadian Flycatcher	22	1 PDBA	Iroquois N.W.R.	Roberson
"	29	1 PDBA	Hamburg Twp.	Andrle
"	30	1 PDBA	Chestnut Ridge Park	Andrle
*Willow Flycatcher	16F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
*Least Flycatcher	2F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	2F	1	Amity Twp.	V&M Pitzrick
"	2F	3	Cheektowaga Twp.	Rising et al
"	2F	4	Times Beach, Buffalo	D'Anna
Bank Swallow	2	10	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	D&D Suggs
"	10	3	East Aurora	Holmes
*Cliff Swallow	2F	4	Jaeger Rocks, Ont.	D&D Suggs
"	2F	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna
Barn Swallow	24	550	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	7	reports throughout W.N.Y.	
Carolina Wren	1-31	7	reports W.N.Y.	
Marsh Wren	1	1	Tifft N.P.	D&D Suggs
Golden-cr. Kinglet	23	3 PDBA	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson, D'Anna et al
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	2	2	Point Gratiot	Budniewski
"	2	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson et al
"	2	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna
*Veery	2F	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna
"	7	1	Sheridan Twp.	Budniewski
Gray-cheeked Thrush	20	1	Goat Island	Roberson
*Swainson's Thrush	12F	3	Goat Island	D'Anna Potter
"	13	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
Gray Catbird	2F	1	Cheektowaga Twp.	Watson et al
"	3	2	Wales Twp.	O. Rosche
Northern Mockingbird	2	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton
*White-eyed Vireo	13F	1	Goat Island	Potter et al
"	18	2	Tifft N.P.	Andrle et al
*Yellow-thr. Vireo	9F	2	Tonawanda W.M.A.	Rising, Galas
"	10	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	12	3	Williamsville Glen	Roberson
*Warbling Vireo	2F	3	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton
"	2F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	2F	10	Goat Island	Cooper, Roberson
"	2F	1	Point Gratiot	Budniewski
*Philadelphia Vireo	13F	1	Williamsville Glen	D&D Suggs
"	15	1	Buffalo	Cooper
*Red-eyed Vireo	8F	1	Holland Twp.	C. Rosenburg
*Blue-winged Warbler	3F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	5	1	Amity Twp.	V&M Pitzrick
*Golden-wing. Warbler	9F	3	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Rising, Galas
"	9F	1	Wilson-Tusc. S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	9F	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1	East Aurora	Holmes
*"Brewster's Warbler"	22F	1	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	Roberson
"	28	1	Allegany Reservoir	Chilton, Sundell
*Tennessee Warbler	10F	1	Tifft N.P.	Rising, Galas
"	12	3	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
*Orange-cr. Warbler	14	1	Porter Twp.	Cooper et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Nashville Warbler	3	22	Jamestown	Sundell
*Northern Parula	9F,14	1,1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton
"	11	1	Holland Twp.	C. Rosenberg
"	13	1	Goat Island	Potter, O'Donnell
"	13	2	Tifft N.P.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
*Chestnut-s. Warbler	2F	8	Lewiston Twp.	Cooper, Roberson
"	8	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
*Magnolia Warbler	4F	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
"	10	3	Tifft N.P.	Rising, Galas
*Cape May Warbler	8F	1	Goat Island	Watson
"	9	1	Beaver Is. S.P.	Chilton
*Bk.,-thr. Bl. Warbler	2F	2	Lewiston Twp.	Roberson, Cooper
"	3	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	1	Marilla Twp.	C. Rosenberg
Yellow-r. Warbler	2	85	Porter Twp.	D'Anna
"	3	140	Jamestown	Sundell
*Blackburnian Warbler	2F	2	Goat Island	Cooper, Roberson
"	2F	3	Lewiston Twp.	Cooper, Roberson
"	2F	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess
"	2F	1	Cheektowaga Twp.	Watson, Rosenberg
Pine Warbler	2-9	5	reports north of E. Aurora	
"	<u>25</u>	1	Lewiston Twp.	D'Anna
*Prairie Warbler	12F,20, <u>29</u>	1,,2,2	Amity Twp.	V&M Pitzrick
"	21	1	Amity Twp.	M. Pitzrick
*Bay-breasted Warbler	12F	3	East Aurora	Holmes
"	12F	1	Tifft N.P.	Potter, DiTommaso
"	12F	3	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
Blackpoll Warbler	31	2	Rock Point P.P.	Watson, Byron (BOS)
*Cerulean Warbler	11F	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
"	12	1	East Aurora	Holmes
*American Redstart	9F	2	Williamsville Glen	D&D Suggs
"	9F	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	13	2	East Aurora	Holmes
*Prothonotary Warbler	23F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson et al
"	31	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Listman
Ovenbird	2F	1	Goat Island	Roberson, Cooper
"	2F	1	Charlotte Twp.	Budniewski
"	2F	1	Cheektowaga Twp.	Watson et al
Northern Waterthrush	6	1	East Aurora	Holmes, Ruhl
"	25	1	Tifft N.P.	Rising, Galas
* <u>Kentucky Warbler</u>	10	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, DiTommaso
*Mourning Warbler	12F	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
*Common Yellowthroat	3F	1	Sheridan Twp.	Budniewski
"	9	1	East Aurora	Holmes
*Hooded Warbler	12F	1	Tifft N.P.	Potter, DiTommaso
"	13	1	Goat Island	Roberson et al
*Wilson's Warbler	10F	2	Tifft N.P.	Rising, Galas
"	12	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	12	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
*Canada Warbler	12F	1	Goat Island	Potter
"	12F	1	Tifft N.P.	Potter, DiTommaso
"	13	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
*Yellow-br. Chat	16	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Collins, DiTommaso

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
*Scarlet Tanager	11F	2	Sheridan Twp.	Budniewski
"	12	2	Williamsville glen	Roberson
Rose-br. Grosbeak	3F	1	Sheridan Twp.	R&C Budniewski
"	3F	1	Lewiston Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
"	9	2	Williamsville Glen	D&D Suggs
"	9	2	Newscad Twp.	D&D Suggs
*Indigo Bunting	16F	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Rising et al
Vesper Sparrow	24	2	Barre Twp.	Watson et al
*Grasshopper Sparrow	10F	1	Pembroke Twp.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	19	1	Amity Twp.	V&M Pitzrick
"	23	3	Wheatfield Twp.	C. Rosenberg
"	25	4	Clarence Twp.	C. Rosenberg
"	30	9	Cambria Twp.	C. Rosenberg
Henslow's Sparrow	25	2	Clarence Twp.	C. Rosenberg
*Lincoln's Sparrow	10F	2	Tifft N.P.	Collins et al
"	11	1	Point Gratiot	Chilton
"	11	1	Forest Lawn,Bflo.	Collins
White-thr. Sparrow	2	75	Goat Island	Roberson,Cooper
"	29	1	Buffalo	Wagner
White-cr. Sparrow	2	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	2	2	Goat Island	Roberson, Cooper
"	2	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	20L	1	Williamsville Glen	Rising
Dark-eyed Junco	28L	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
* <u>Western Meadowlark</u>	9	1	Pembroke Twp.	Rising, Galas
"	9	1	Pembroke Twp.	R&K Collins
"	10	1	Pembroke Twp.	Watson, Holmes
"	10	1	Pembroke Twp.	D'Anna,DiTommaso
"	11	1	Pembroke Twp.	Holmes
"	12	1	Pembroke Twp.	Roberson
Rusty Blackbird	16	1	Clarence Twp.	Watson
<u>Orchard Oriole</u>	28	1	South Valley Twp.	Chilton et al
"	30	1	Rock Point P.P.	D'Anna, Potter
Northern Oriole	2	1	Lewiston Twp.	Roberson, Cooper
Common Redpoll	3L	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	Cooper
Pine Siskin	2-10	6	other reports W.N.Y.	
"	3-31	15-3	East Aurora	Holmes
Evening Grosbeak	1-9	8-1	Wales Twp.(f)	O. Rosche

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	181
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue . (incl. May Bird Count)	69
Total for year.	250

CORRECTION

In the May, 1992 issue (Vol. 58 No. 5) the column heading for month in "Noteworthy Records" is Mar., it should be Apr.

Report of the 56th B.O.S. May Bird Count

Date: May 17, 1992

Compilers: Mike Galas and Gerry Rising

Weather: A summery day with 11.5 hours of sunshine. Temperatures ranged from 63° F in the early morning to 84° in the afternoon. Wind was from the southwest, averaging 15 miles per hour and with a peak gust of 39 miles per hour. A third of an inch of rain fell, but not until evening. Foliage was essentially complete.

Compilation: The following is a list of species on the count followed by the total number observed. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers appear in parentheses. Underscored names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** and **L** represent first and last dates for the spring migration respectively; * represents first record for the year.

Loons – Ducks

Common Loon	3	(3,5,17)	Mallard	936	
Pied-billed Grebe	17		Northern Pintail	6	(10)
<u>American White Pelican</u>	2	(10)	Blue-winged Teal	54	
Double-crested Cormorant	453		Northern Shoveler	12	(10)
American Bittern	8		Gadwall	20	
Great Blue Heron	327		American Wigeon	25	
Green-backed Heron	40		Redhead	23	(10)
Black-crowned Night Heron	41	(3,9,11)	Lesser Scaup	1	(26)
Tundra Swan	6		scoter species	10	
<u>Snow Goose</u>	1	(12)	Hooded Merganser	23	
Canada Goose	1899		Common Merganser	25	
Wood Duck	252		Red-breasted Merganser	27	
Green-winged Teal	16	(4,10,26)	Ruddy Duck	2	(10)
American Black Duck	2	(10)			

Raptors – Rails

Turkey Vulture	458		Rough-legged Hawk	L	8	(4,12,16)
Osprey	25		American Kestrel		73	
Bald Eagle	3	(5,10,27)	Ring-necked Pheasant		25	
Northern Harrier	18		Ruffed Grouse		32	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	103		Wild Turkey		52	
Cooper's Hawk	4		Virginia Rail		3	(23)
Red-shouldered Hawk	12		Sora		6	
Broad-winged Hawk	253		Common Moorhen		18	(5,10)
Red-tailed Hawk	212		American Coot		43	(7,10)

Plovers – Terns

Black-bellied Plover	1	(4)	Dunlin		14	
Semipalmated Plover	30		Short-billed Dowitcher	*F	7	(1,7,11)
Killdeer	455		Common Snipe		14	
Greater Yellowlegs	10		American Woodcock		20	
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	(4,10,26)	Bonaparte's Gull		63	
Solitary Sandpiper	14		Ring-billed Gull		17843	
Spotted Sandpiper	87		Herring Gull		235	
Ruddy Turnstone	*F	5	Great Black-backed Gull		60	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	*F	10	Caspian Tern		9	(1,6,7)
Least Sandpiper		54	Common Tern		60	
White-rumped Sandpiper	*F	1	Black Tern		12	(10)

Doves – Swallows

Rock Dove	1084		Olive-sided Flycatcher	* F	1	(5)
Mourning Dove	1324		Eastern Wood Pewee		84	
Black-billed Cuckoo	17		Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		3	(9,28)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	(13,23,24)	<u>Acadian Flycatcher</u>	* F	1	(24)
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	(20)	Alder Flycatcher	* F	4	(18,25,28)
Great Horned Owl	14		Willow Flycatcher		27	
Barred Owl	9		Least Flycatcher		138	
Common Nighthawk	14		Eastern Phoebe		256	
Chimney Swift	328		Great Crested Flycatcher		199	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	171		Eastern Kingbird		329	
Belted Kingfisher	75		Horned Lark		26	
Red-headed Woodpecker	14		Purple Martin		575	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	20		Tree Swallow		1499	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	23		No. Rough-winged Swallow		271	
Downy Woodpecker	154		Bank Swallow		610	
Hairy Woodpecker	50		Cliff Swallow		134	
Northern Flicker	221		Barn Swallow		1472	
Pileated Woodpecker	21					

Jays – Starlings

Blue Jay	1231		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		11	
American Crow	1702		Eastern Bluebird		227	
<u>Common Raven</u>	5	(28)	Veery		61	
Black-capped Chickadee	677		Gray-cheeked Thrush	* F	2	(11,17)
Tufted Titmouse	32		Swainson's Thrush		12	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18		Hermit Thrush		33	
White-breasted Nuthatch	132		Wood Thrush		270	
Brown Creeper	13		American Robin		5306	
Carolina Wren	38		Gray Catbird		736	
House Wren	415		Mockingbird		15	
Winter Wren	8		Brown Thrasher		39	
Marsh Wren	40	(10,11,13)	American Pipit		10	(10,20)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14	(19,28)	Cedar Waxwing		237	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	(11,20,28)	European Starling		4282	

Vireos – Warblers

White-eyed Vireo	1	(4)	Blackburnian Warbler		56	
Solitary Vireo	44		Pine Warbler		2	(2,3)
Yellow-throated Vireo	14		Prairie Warbler		16	(23,28)
Warbling Vireo	119		Palm Warbler		1	(19)
Philadelphia Vireo	4	(1,11)	Bay-breasted Warbler		30	
Red-eyed Vireo	261		Blackpoll Warbler	* F	8	
Blue-winged Warbler	126		Cerulean Warbler		20	
Golden-winged Warbler	4	(3,13)	Black-and-white Warbler		11	
Tennessee Warbler	20		American Redstart		239	
Nashville Warbler	14		Ovenbird		217	
Northern Parula	1	(5)	Northern Waterthrush		12	
Yellow Warbler	1840		Louisiana Waterthrush	* F	6	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	194		Mourning Warbler		24	
Magnolia Warbler	97		Common Yellowthroat		685	
Cape May Warbler	7		Hooded Warbler		86	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	28		Wilson's Warbler		10	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	146		Canada Warbler		29	
Black-throated Green Warbler	83		warbler species		2	

Tanagers – Finches

Scarlet Tanager	161		Dark-eyed Junco	219	
Northern Cardinal	673		Bobolink	876	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	545		Red-winged Blackbird	5466	
Indigo Bunting	164		Eastern Meadowlark	183	
Rufous-sided Towhee	156		Rusty Blackbird	L 6	(21,22)
Chipping Sparrow	827		Common Grackle	3960	
Field Sparrow	170		Brown-headed Cowbird	946	
Vesper Sparrow	7	(5,10,19)	Orchard Oriole	* 1	(13)
Savannah Sparrow	139		Northern Oriole	759	
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	(19)	Purple Finch	197	
Henslow's Sparrow	* F 3	(22)	House Finch	1199	
Song Sparrow	1256		Red Crossbill	1	(27)
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	(2,7)	Pine Siskin	55	
Swamp Sparrow	128		American Goldfinch	2036	
White-throated Sparrow	34		Evening Grosbeak	L 2	(28)
White-crowned Sparrow	67		House Sparrow	1825	

Summary Information

Total Species Observed – **197**

Hybrids – **0**

Total Individual Birds Observed – **75852**

Number of Observers – **266**

The count totals were near average: the species count two below the decade average, eight above the 56 year average; the total individuals 1054 (1.5%) above the decade average, but 44% above the 56 year average.

When both comparisons are offered, they are with (1) the decade from 1983 to 1992, and (2) the full 56 year record in that order:

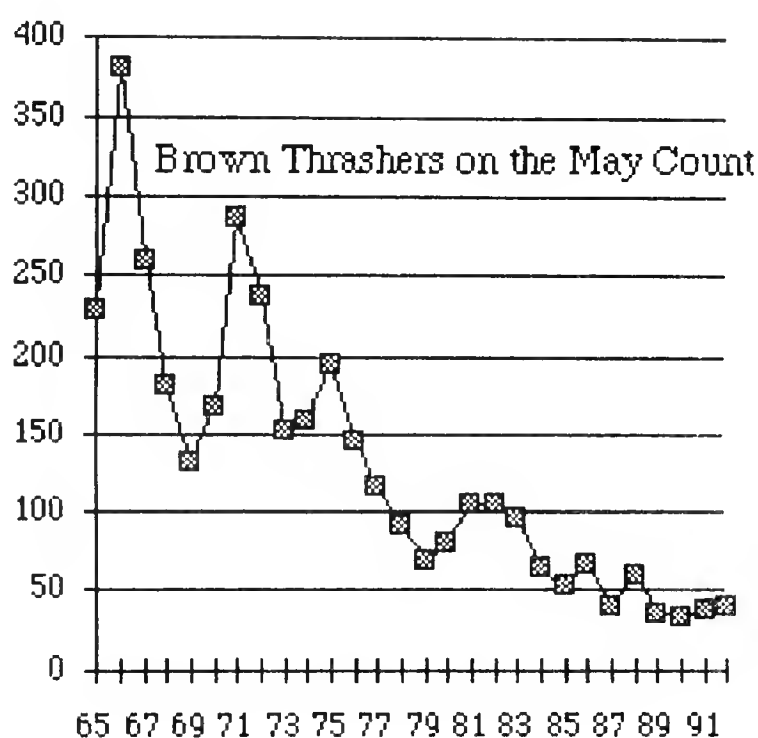
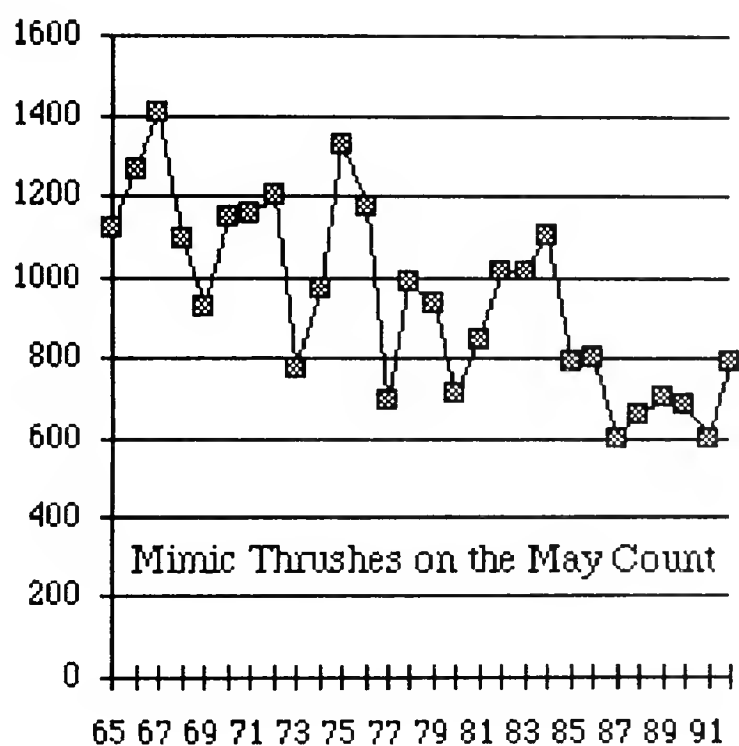
Loons – Ducks: American White Pelican 2: first census record. Double-crested Cormorant 453: record high by 44% over last year's previous record; this species appears to be exponentially increasing. American Bittern 8: decade high by 1 over 1985, but numbers of this species have shown a steady decline since the high of 61 in 1947. Great Blue Heron 327: decade high, but 433 in 1950 the high count. Tundra Swan 6: decade high, count maximum 14 in 1967. Snow Goose 1: first decade record, only recorded 3 times but 3 in 1958 maximum. Canada Goose 1899, record high and a 15% increase over last year's previous high. Green-winged Teal: 16, decade high but 21 in 1971. Wood Duck 252: record high, beating last year's previous high by 32%. Redhead 23: record high, beating 17 in 1958 and 1976. All groups enjoying high numbers: Loons, grebes, and cormorants 475 and swans, geese, and ducks 3340 both count highs. Herons 416: second high in decade to 432 in 1989; the count high of 843 in 1950 the only other higher count.

Raptors – Rails: Turkey Vulture 458: census high by 68% over previous high in 1989. Osprey 25: record high and almost double the prior high of 13 in 1990. Sharp-shinned Hawk 103: almost triple previous high of 35 in 1988. Broad-winged Hawk 253: record high over seven times previous high of 35 in 1986. Red-tailed Hawk 212: record high but only 14 more than in 1988. Rough-legged Hawk 8: record high, previous high 3 last attained in 1980, only recorded 19 years. Ring-necked Pheasant 25: low for decade, but 16 in 1979. American Coot 43: decade high, census high 94 in 1950. Hawks and owls 1194: maximum for count history. Marsh birds 179: below count average of 205, numbers declining since maximum of 378 in 1950.

Plovers – Terns: Shorebirds 725: down 27% from decade average, 16% from census average; maximum 1997 in 1967. Gulls and terns 18282: up 29% from decade average, three times census average; maximum 24579 just two years ago.

Doves – Swallows: Red-headed Woodpecker 14, near decade low of 13 last year. Eastern Phoebe 256: decade high but well below 390 in 1972. Woodpeckers 503: continuing to decline from the high of 1503 in 1971. Flycatchers 1042: maximum 1491 in 1967. Swallows 4561: well off from decade max of 8229 and count max of 12457 in 1967.

Jays – Starlings: Carolina Wren 38: record high, previous record 17 last year, before that 8 in 1989. House Wren 415: decade high, but 754 in 1976. Marsh Wren 40: ties 1989 for decade high; 154 in 1953. Eastern Bluebird 227: second in census to record of 243 set in 1990. European Starling 4282: low for decade but many lower counts in '30s and '40s. Tits 1406: below decade maximum of 1821 in 1983, count maximum of 1959 in 1975. Thrushes 5911: decade and count max of 8079 in 1985. Mimic thrushes 790: down from maximum of 1406 in 1967. The left chart below shows the decline of this group over 28 years despite the increase in mockingbird numbers over that same period. The right chart shows the real source of the



problem, the sharp drop in thrasher numbers during the 1970s.

Vireos – Warblers: Solitary Vireo 44: record high, previous high 40 in 1975. Tennessee Warbler 20: low since 1966. Northern Parula 1: ties 1988 decade low. Yellow Warbler 1840: decade high but 2201 in 1967. Prairie Warbler 16: tied for decade high with 1986. Palm Warbler 1: tied for decade low with last year and 1985. Blackpoll Warbler 8: decade low since 2 in 1981; none in some earlier years. Hooded Warbler 86: record high, previous high 60 in 1986. Vireos 443: low for the decade and well below the count maximum of 964 in 1974. Warblers 4014: below decade max of 5415 in 1984 and well below count max of 7055 in 1948.

Tanagers – Finches: Scarlet Tanager 161: decade high but 352 in 1978. Rose-breasted Grosbeak 545: decade high but 756 in 1976. Vesper Sparrow 4: census low, previous low 5 in 1990, census average count 79! Savannah Sparrow 139: low since 108 in 1959, lower numbers in still earlier years. Song Sparrow 1256: low since 1248 in 1980, many lower counts in earlier years. Dark-eyed Junco 219: record high, previous high 217 in 1966. Eastern Meadowlark 183: low since 1941. Tanagers and Buntings 1543: decade max but down from 2179 in 1976. Sparrows 3007: well below decade max of 4536 in 1984 and far off the 8067 count high in 1966. Icterids 12197: below the decade max of 15630 in 1983 and the count max of 30150 in 1971. Finches 3490: down from decade high of 4846 in 1990, farther below 6822 count maximum in 1976.

Observers

Compilers are printed in boldface:

Section 1: **David Cooper**, Gary Novosel, K. O. Roy, Allen Smith.

Section 2: Gerry Rising, **Chuck Rosenburg**.

Section 3: Jerald J. Farrell, Harriette Klabunde, **Walter Klabunde**, Tom Insalaco, Don Roberson.

Section 4: Donald Endres, **William Watson**.

Section 5: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Peggy Christensen, **Dick Christensen**, Donald Endres, Jocelyn Jones, Morgan Jones, Marion Smith, Bill Townsend.

Section 6: **Edward Crohn**, Mary Ann Stegmeier.

Section 7: Robert Andrle, **Joseph Thill**.

Section 8: Jane Heyer, Marcia O'Bara, Ernie Reinhart, **Ellen Schopp**, Margaret Stewart.

Section 9: **Karen Renning**, Paul Yaeger.

Section 10: John Filor, **Robert Wagner**.

Section 11: Charlie Halvorsen, Marge Harwitz, **Sharon Sisti**, Peter Yoerg.

Section 12: Ann Bauer, Dorothy Danner, Raymond Franz, **Tom Harper**, Linda Holmes, Joseph Lesser, Marlene Phillips, Donna Wieand, Cyril Wolfling.

Section 13: Roger Daniels, Tad Gerace, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, George Mahaney, **Jane Mason**, **Max Mason**, Don Thureau.

Section 14: Lois Abbott, Barbara Brandes, Kenneth Brandes, Phyllis Hansen, Adelaide Hunley, Bob Leonard, Sandy Radigan, Mary Saville, Al Saunders, Sue Saunders, **Barbara Walker**, Audrey Zegebarth, Jack Zegebarth.

Section 15: **Bill Bogacki**.

Section 16: Lois Buck, Tom Connare, Gil Lange, Mary Lange, **Fran Rew**.

Section 17: **Wavel Barber**, Carolyn Frank, Audrey Horbett, Leane Shultz, Patricia Weihing.

Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**.

Section 19: Allegany County Bird Club: Ron Andrews, Roy Bielewicz, Sandy Bielewicz, Faye Clancy, June Estabrook, Alice Evans, Bernard Fancher, Joseph Galli, Elaine Herdman, Lyle Hotchkiss, Howard Lang, Mrs. Howard Lang, Edna Marvin, Larry Mullen, Roger Nicholson, Mrs. Roger Nicholson, **Katherine Palmer**, John Raybuck, Vesta Rice, Elaine Smith, Emmette Smith, Marion Smith, Elwyn Steadman, Jean Wilson, Larry Wilson, Richard Wilson, Oliver Williams, Mrs. Oliver Williams.

Section 20: Lake Erie Bird Club: Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Sylvia Clarke, Paul Faruer, Joe Gula Sr., Don Klaybor, Terry Mahoney, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Marty Sanden, **Kathleen Souter**, Ted Taft Jr., Ted Taft Sr., Tom Welch.

Section 21: Jamestown Audubon Society: Dan Cordosi, Len DeFrancisco, Julie Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Carol Roby, Bill Sharp, Sue Suckow, Travis Suckow, **Bob Sundell**, Jason Swanson, Carol Wagner.

Section 22: Jamestown Audubon Society: Shawn Allen, Dan Cordosi, Len DeFrancisco, Ranjit Laha, John Luensman, Bill O'Brien, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**.

Section 23: Jamestown Audubon Society: Dan Cordosi, Len DeFrancisco, Ranjit Laha, Jeremy Maggio, Steve Maggio, Bruce Robinson, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**.

Section 24: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Bert Schweigert.

Section 25: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Dorothy Baker, Lucille Bordonaro, Stephen W. Eaton, Margaret Green, Cora Moser, Jacob Moser, Clara Vales, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy.

Section 26: Allegany County Bird Club: **Doris Burton**, Connie Coon, Mary Jordan, Gino Pizza, Norma Pizza, Bruce Smalley, Jean Young.

Section 27: Allegany County Bird Club: Margaret Barnett, **Doris Burton**, Estella Cronauer, Frances DeGroff, June Dickinson, Audrey Dunham, George Dunham, Doris Hurlburt, Claribel James, Robert James, Emma Lou King, Helen Link, Gloria Lundberg, Calvin Maybee, Elvira Pitzrick, Michael Pitzrick, Ray Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Wilma Sanford, Lillian Simons, George Smith, Ruth Smith, Harvey Spencer, Maureen Spencer, Jake Strong, Fran Thompson, William Thompson.

Section 28: Allegany County Bird Club: Mallery Adams, Mary Adams, Charlotte Alderson, Ethel Allen, Russell Allen, Charlotte Baldwin, Don Baldwin, **Dorothy Bayless**, Fred Bayless, Warren Bouck, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Elizabeth Brooks, Vivian Brownell, Caroline Browning, Judson Browning, Debbie Bucholz, Betty Burdick, Carl Burdick, Clifford Button, Evelyn Coats, Carla Coch. **Diane**

Converso, Jim Copenheaver, Zoe Coombs, Cynthia Culley, Paul Culley, Elsie Cushing, Lawrence Deverell, Phyllis DuBrueil, Ann Eisenhardt, Robert Eisenhardt, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, Lucille Frank, Walt Franklin, Mary Alice Fuller, Paul Fuller, Connie Gradoni, Helen Graves, Millie Hayes, Lloyd Hotchkiss, Matthew Hotchkiss, Sandra Hotchkiss, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, **Clarence Klingensmith**, Margaret Klingensmith, Ellen Lamb, Betty Lang, Wayne Lang, Erma Larson, Kathy MacDonald, Ed Mason, Marjorie Mason, Ken McClure, Marion McClure, Mary Ormsby, Lyle Palmiter, Mary Peterson, Linn Phelan, Robert Pipal, Elvira Pitzrick, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, **Vivian Pitzrick**, Dan Ramsey, Lynn Rositzke, Violet Sharrett, Lauren Soule, Maureen Soule, Connor Stephens, Bruce Taggart, Wilma Taggart, Evelyn Thomas, Bea Thompson, Victor Transki, Theodore Vossler, Suzanne Wood.

Spring 1992 in the Williamsville Glen

Most observers in the Williamsville Glen this spring agree that warblers were isolated in small groups that were hard to dig out. Few were near Glen Avenue; those that were to be found were along Ellicott Creek near the golf course. Numbers of the birds that were finally seen were small.

A comparison with the past three years is in order:

	1989	1990	1991	1992
Days Recorded	15	19	28	13
Total Species	94	102	107	88
Total Warbler Species	25	24	27	20
High Species Count	63	72	73	49
High Warbler Species Count	18	23	22	13
Date of High Species Count	May 19	May 21	May 12	May 13
High Warbler Individuals Count	104	132	118	70
Date of High Individuals Count	May 19	May 21	May 8	May 9

Clearly 1992 was not a good year in comparison with these others: it was low on every single measure. This certainly cannot be taken as proof that warbler numbers are declining: the weather conditions simply did not cooperate to produce a good flight this year. Still one could wish that the numbers were increasing instead of declining. There is always next year. Let's hope that it is better.

Recorded this year, but not included on the species list on the adjacent page are: Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

Those who provided reports include: Bill Burch, Don Brasure, David Cooper, Linda Holmes, Tom Insalaco, Scott Meier, Linc Nutting, Don Roberson, Gerry Rising, Mae Ruhl, Dave Suggs, and Debbie Suggs. — G. Rising

Williamsville Glen: Selected Spring 1992 Records

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	Apr 9	May 1	May 4	May 6	May 8	May 9	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 15	May 18	May 20	May 22	Obs/13
Eastern Wood-Pewee								1						1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher											1			1
Willow Flycatcher											1			1
Least Flycatcher				2		1	2	3			1			5
Eastern Phoebe		1	1	1	3		3	2		1	1			8
Great Crested Flycatcher					3	1	3	2	2	2	5	5	3	9
Purple Martin				2										1
Tree Swallow				6		1								2
N. Rough-wing. Swallow							2		2					2
Barn Swallow					1					2				2
Black-capped Chickadee	9	13	6	5	6	10	7	4	6	4	2	6	6	13
Red-breasted Nuthatch					2	2							1	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	2	4		2	3	6		2	3	1	3	1	11
Brown Creeper	1								1					2
Carolina Wren		1	2		2	2		1	1					6
House Wren		4	4	4	4	4	9	5	6	4	2	3	3	12
Marsh Wren				1										1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	1												2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		20	13	3	2	1								5
Eastern Bluebird				2										1
Veery						1		2	1					3
Swainson's Thrush									1	2				2
Hermit Thrush			2											1
Wood Thrush				1				2			1			3
American Robin	12	11	7	5	7	10	7	13	4	5	7	16	6	13
Gray Catbird					1	1	5	7	6	10	7	7	9	9
Cedar Waxwing	2								2	2	5	3	14	6
Solitary Vireo			2											1
Yellow-throated Vireo								3						1
Warbling Vireo						1	1	5	1	3	1	3	2	8
Philadelphia Vireo									1					1
Red-eyed Vireo								3	1	1	1	7	7	6
Tennessee Warbler											2	1		2
Nashville Warbler			1		1	4	1			2				5
Yellow Warbler		1	1	1	1	10	14	5	6	4	6	3	5	12
Chestnut-sided Warbler				1	1	1	2	9	1	1	2	2		9
Magnolia Warbler			1				1	6	3	1	2	2		7
Black-thr. Blue Warbler				1				2	1	1	2	1		6
Yellow-rumped Warbler		1	8	13	10	26	12	14	10	18	3	1	3	12
Black-thr. Green Warbler			6	4	1	8	3	3	3	1	1			9
Blackburnian Warbler					2	11	2		1		1			5
Pine Warbler			1											1
Palm Warbler			1											1
Bay-breasted Warbler									1		1			2
Blackpoll Warbler												2	3	2
Cerulean Warbler							1							1
Black-and-White Warbler			2			6	4	3	1	2	1			7
American Redstart						2	1		2		1	1		5
Ovenbird						2		1						2
Common Yellow-throat									1	2	2	2	1	5
Wilson's Warbler													1	1
Canada Warbler									1		1			2
Scarlet Tanager								2			3	1		3
Northern Cardinal	9	11	13	4	6	6	9	6	4	5	4	10	7	13
Rose-breasted Grosbeak						2	2			1		2		4
Rufous-sided Towhee												1		1
Chipping Sparrow		3	2		2	2	3		1	1				7
Song Sparrow	7	7	7	8	5	5	9	7	8	7	3	9	4	13
White-throated Sparrow		5	6	3		4								4
White-crowned Sparrow									6			1		2
Northern Oriole						2	4	4	5	2	2	3	4	8
Purple Finch			1											1
Total Individuals	123	195	210	143	172	160	182	182	159	179	147	188	142	
Total Species	20	29	39	34	38	45	42	41	49	43	47	44	34	88
Total Individual Warblers	0	2	21	20	16	70	41	43	31	32	25	15	13	
Total Warbler Species	0	2	8	5	6	9	10	8	12	9	13	9	5	20

Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip

The annual early May field trip for warblers produced only five species of warblers.

Along Mosquito Junction Boardwalk Trail we found Swamp Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black & White Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Northern Harrier and Marsh Wren.

On the service road there were White-crowned Sparrow in their football helmet attire. It was here John Welte found a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. On Warbler Walk we found Solitary Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Golden-crowned Kinglet (on the late side), Rufous sided Towhee and Green-backed Heron (Tom Insalaco). It was here Alice McKale called our attention to the calls of Northern Waterthrush and American Bittern. Along Old Tifft Street we heard Common Yellow-throat, Carolina Wren and Ring-necked Pheasant.

At Lisa Pond, we enjoyed watching Common Moorhen, Hooded Merganser, Blue-winged Teal, a pair of Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck and Green-backed Heron. On Beth Pond, among several Lesser Scaup, we found a Ruddy Duck which may have been the best bird of the day!

The half-day trip finished earlier than usual at 11:00 with a total of 62 species. This is well below the average of 77 species for the five previous years. It is also interesting to note that in the last six years, the highest number of species was on the latest trip (85 species on May 11, 1987). The lowest number of species was on the earliest trip - May 3, 1992. On a more positive note many of us had many firsts for the year, and we did see late ducks this year such as Bufflehead, Ring-neck Duck, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck.

William Watson

Shorebirds Trip

The May 31st trip along the Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds once again lead by Dick Byron. It was very enjoyable and very successful.

At Rock Point Provincial Park there was an abundance of shorebirds with 18 Sanderlings, 2 White-rumped Sandpipers, 56 Semi-palmated

Sandpipers, 6 Least Sandpipers, 13 Dunlin, 4 Ruddy Turnstones, 4 Red Knots, 8 Semi-palmated Plover and a stunning pair of Whimbrel! Rock Pint also produced a flock of 48 Double-crested Cormorants, a Caspian Tern, a Canada Warbler and several Blackpoll Warblers.

Our 12th shorebird species was a Yellowlegs at the Smithville Sewage Lagoon. However, the Ruff reported on May 16th was not found.

William Watson

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to New Associate Member:

Julie Braun
351 Crescent Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14214
Tel. 832-8603

Walter Listman's street address should be:
14775 Lakeshore Rd.

BOS MEETINGS

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Don't forget, the highlight of our first meeting in September is: "Summer (and other) Birding Adventures of our Members." Plan to bring and share slides of your special birding moments.

FIELD TRIPS

July 26: Sunday. Canadian shore of Lake Erie for warblers and shorebirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Vermont & Busti or at 7:15 at the first parking lot on the Canadian side, 0.6 mi. (1 km.) upriver from the Peace Bridge. Leader: Dick Byron (662-4783).

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Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.

For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

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To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

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Volume 58

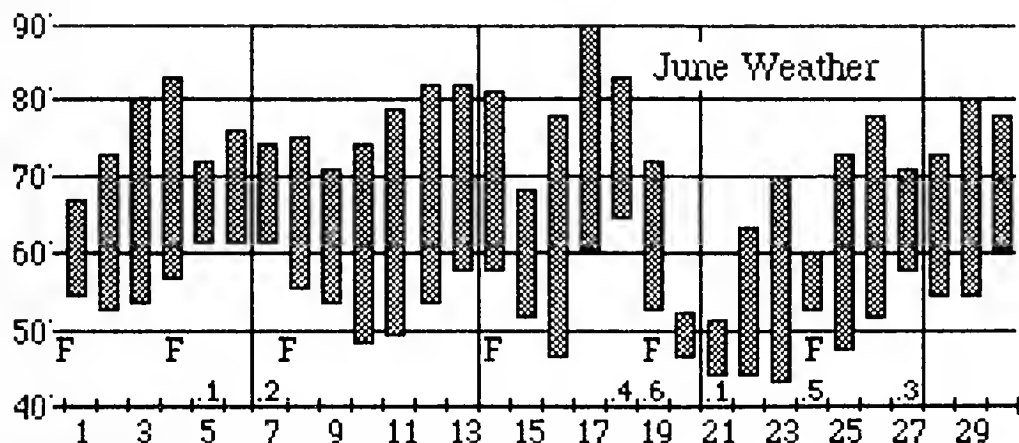
July 1992

Number 7

THACA, NY 14853

THE MONTH: June 1992

The spring part of June was pleasant; it was summer that brought the cold weather. That is one way of describing this month's temperature. As the chart shows, the 19th continued the heavy rain of the 18th and as the front passed through temperatures plummeted. Nighttime temperatures during the week that followed required extra blankets and the daytime temperatures on the 20th and 21st



weren't much better. Both days set record lows and the 51°F maximum on the 21st broke the old low max record for that date by 8°. With the rest of the month near normal, this week pulled the average for the full month down 2.6° from normal to 63.4°.

The precipitation total of 2.2 inches was 0.5 inches below normal, but widely enough distributed that the reduction did not create problems for agriculture. No strong storms were reported.

Winds were light, the peak of 33 mph attained in a thun-

On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 6th was a Saturday, the 7th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

derstorm on the 18th. Sunshine was average. But Lake Erie temperature dropped back into the 50s late in the month as a result of that cold snap.

The picture in the Southern Tier was somewhat different. The higher elevations often produce lower temperatures there, but Vivian Pitzrick's report of "effective frosts" in Allegany County on the 11th and 16th show how far their temperatures can differ from those in Buffalo where the lows on those days were 49° and 47°. Pitzrick goes on to say that the cold snaps together with many days of cold misty rains killed many insects. In particular she notes the scarcity of fireflies and June bugs. As a result of this (and the bad weather in late May as well) Pitzrick supports the observations of Rich Wells that were included in my May report. In her words, "Many first nestings of bluebirds

failed when nestlings died in the nests. Tree Swallows at higher elevations lost many well-feathered nestlings. I believe the adults were unable to provide insects for food." A note from Rich adds, "June 20 and 21 were terrible for Tree Swallows."

These observations raise an interesting point. Unlike other swallows, Tree Swallows are omnivorous, eating seeds as well as insects. (Bent reports less than 1% vegetative matter in the crops of our other swallows, but 20% in Tree Swallows. In some cases collected birds of this species had crops entirely full of seeds and fruit.) It is this adaptation that saves them when they are caught by bad weather in the early spring. (Anyone with access to Bent should read the lovely account of early Tree Swallows pecking seeds from the surface of a frozen pond.)

Why then the problem for these young birds? Couldn't they too turn to vegetation for sustenance? Several possible answers occur to me. First, whereas insect eating is the natural (innate?) feeding method of Tree Swallows, the alternate reliance on vegetation may be a learned skill picked up only over time from adult birds. The young birds may not yet have mastered this skill. Second, even for species whose food is largely vegetative, the proportion of protein bearing insect food provided their young is much higher, often double the percentage in the adult's normal diet. As with humans, an enriched diet for young may be necessary to their well-being. Without this enhancement these young swallows may have been in trouble. And finally, especially this year June is a between season for fruit and seeds. The old crops are mostly gone, the new not yet arrived.

As I noted last month, bluebirds, because we have them under closer observation, may be considered an indicator species. The same is true of Tree Swallows. What then of the nesting success of other species? And given the stresses already placed on bird populations, will this summer prove a disaster? (It would be nice to think that this situation is local — effecting only us here in the Miami of the North — but an outfitter in northern Minnesota told me in early July that they had even worse weather: "never two days of good weather in a row.")

Exceptional Records. Certainly the best record of the month is the single Common Barn Owl verified in the Town of Otto on the 27th, but seen by the barn owners for some time before that. (The property owners have asked that their location not be published. Given the need to protect this rare breeder, that seems quite reasonable.) A single territorial male Clay-colored Sparrow was observed through most of the month by Brooks in the Town of Andover.

Again there were a number of other observations that were either undocumented or not complete enough to meet B.O.S. statistical standards: an American White Pelican and a Laughing Gull on Chautauqua Lake, a King Rail in Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, a Great Gray Owl calling in woods west of Chautauqua Lake, and Orchard Orioles in Allegheny State Park and South Valley.

Galas, Watson, and I tried to locate the Great Gray Owl where visitors to the area, Earl and Ele Colborn, reported hearing it in the extensive pine woods along Brody Road just south of Mayville. The Colborns, Florida birders who are familiar with Barred and Great Horned Owl calls, had heard an odd call and matched it with their tapes. Although the bird was quite near, they could not force their way into the thick woods far enough to see it. The location seemed perfect to us when we checked: almost impenetrable, gloomy pine groves separated occasionally by hardwoods. But we could not find any owl. Sundell tells me that there has been a series of isolated reports of sightings of big owls since the two wintering Great Gray Owls disappeared from their separate haunts on opposite sides of the Pennsylvania border. It is too bad that this area wasn't checked further as we may have missed the first western New York nesting record of this northern species.

Breeding Birds. Holmes reports nesting Red-shouldered Hawks in Sinking Ponds and the Budniewskis record another pair of these thinly distributed birds in the Town of Sheridan. It is good to note Upland Sandpiper records from the Towns of Burns, North Java, and Pomfret, especially given the rapid encroachment of housing near the Clarence Turf Farms where this species has been regularly recorded in recent years. It will be interesting, but I suspect sad, to note the effect of this pressure on the birds of Clarence. They will surely move out soon, but will they then establish a colony in a nearby area? We will see, I predict, all too soon.

Brooks continues to monitor Common Ravens in the Towns of Andover, Ward, and Almond, her reports numbering an encouraging total of 13 birds. Pitzrick reports hearing a single raven in the Town of Amity as well. Andrie turned up several new sites for breeding Acadian Flycatchers this month and this species was also found at several of its old haunts. Brooks' total of 27 Golden-

crowned Kinglets in the Town of Almond together with reports from other Southern Tier areas represent a significant increase over recent years. Brooks' count alone triples the high recorded in 1989 for the past six years. Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows continue at their low numbers in isolated areas.

The results of the Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Counts are not yet compiled. I will try to include them in next month's report. — G. Rising

Literature Cited

Bent, Arthur Cleveland. *Life Histories of North American Flycatchers, Larks, Swallows, and their Allies*. United States National Museum Bulletin 179. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1942. (Dover reprint, 1963)

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	2	4	Allegany Reservoir	Sundell
D.-crest. Cormorant	10,18,29	74,60,152	Niagara Falls	Watson
American Bittern	2,16	1,1	Tonawanda WMA	Chilton, Rising
"	27	1	Otto Twp.	D'Anna et al
Least Bittern	10,29	1,1	Tifft NP	Watson et al
"	16	1	Tonawanda WMA	Rising
Great Egret	27	5	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Bl.-cr. Night-heron	10,29	1,11	Tifft NP	Watson
"	14	1	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
"	26	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Rising
Green-winged Teal	13,27	1,1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Gadwall	13	4	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
American Wigeon	29	14	Niagara Falls	Watson
Scaup species	21	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Common Merganser	17	1	Carrollton Twp.	Eaton
"	18,29	4,4	Niagara Falls	Watson
Osprey	2	1	Amity Lake	V & M Pitzrick
"	2	6@ 3nests	Allegany Reservoir	Sundell
Bald Eagle	27	1 yg on nest	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Sharp-sh. Hawk	4,7,29	1,1,1	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	6	1	Chautauqua Twp.	Watson et al
"	27	1	Otto Twp.	D'Anna et al
Cooper's Hawk	15	1	Amity Lake	M. Pitzrick
"	18	1	Sheridan Twp.	Budniewski
Upland Sandpiper	14	2	North Java	Holmes
"	19,23	1	Pomfret Twp.	R & C Budniewski
"	26	1	Burns Twp	Brooks

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
White-r. Sandpiper	10L	1	Tifft NP	Watson et al
Great Black-b. Gull	29	11	Niagara Falls	Watson
Common Tern	14	1	Alma Pond	V & M Pitzrick et al
"	14	3	Allegany Reservoir	Sundell
Black Tern	23	7	Tonawanda WMA	Roberson
Black-billed Cuckoo	1-27	5 reports	Tona. Ind. Res. & So. tier	
*Barn Owl	27	1	Otto Twp.	Rosenburg, Schopp
Common Nighthawk	29	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Acadian Flycatcher	2,23,30	1,2,2@n w/yg	Lakeview	Andrle et al
"	7	1	Cheektowaga	Watson, Rosenburg
"	13,27	1,2 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	25	1 PDBA	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Andrle
"	25,30	1,1 PDBA	Hampton Brook	Andrle
"	27	1 PDBA	Chestnut Ridge Pk	D'Anna, Potter
Cliff Swallow	6	12	Allegany Reservoir	Watson et al
"	13	10	Andover Twp.	Brooks
"	23	4	Yorkshire Twp.	Chilton
Common Raven	9	4	Andover Twp.	Brooks
"	10	2ad+3y	Ward Twp.	Brooks et al
"	28	4	W. Almond Twp.	Brooks
Winter Wren	9	1	Wellsville Twp.	Brooks
"	12	3	Yorkshire Twp.	Chilton
"	13	1	Andover Twp.	Brooks
"	14,28,29	1,1,2	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	27	2	Gerry Twp.	Sundell et al
Golden-cr. Kinglet	1-30	27 PDBA	Allegany Co. 4 Twps.	Brooks
"	6	8	Chautauqua Twp.	Watson et al
"	13	6 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	25	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Andrle
"	27	4	Farmersville Twp.	Chilton
Swainson's Thrush	2	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
"	4L	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess
Nashville Warbler	1-30	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	1-30	1	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	3	1	Amity Twp.	Pitzrick
Northern Parula	2	1	South Valley Twp.	Sundell
Bl.-thr. Bl. Warbler	23	1	Farmersville Twp.	Chilton
Yellow-r. Warbler	1-30	1-10	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	1-30	1-15	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	2-27	6 other reports	southern tier	
Pine Warbler	7	2	Lewiston Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
Prairie Warbler	3-28	6 PDBA	Allegany Co. 4 Twps.	Brooks
"	3-30	1-2 PDBA	Amity Twp.	V & M Pitzrick
"	12	3	Ellicottville Twp	Eaton, Baird
Prothonotary Warbler	12,13	1	Alma Twp.	E & D King, Griswald
"	13,15	2,2	Oak Orchard WMA	Chilton
"	13,20,21	1,2,2	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Galas et al
"	14	1	Alma Twp.	Kings, Pitzricks
"	26	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Rising
Northern Waterthrush	12	2	Yorkshire Twp.	Chilton
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Rosenburg
"	26	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Rising
*Clay-col. Sparrow	9-25	1	Andover Twp.	Brooks

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Vesper Sparrow	9,14,16	1,1,1	Andover Twp.	Brooks
"	13	1	Shelby Twp.	Watson
Grasshpr. Sparrow	6,9,16,25	1-2	Andover Twp.	Brooks
"	8	9	Cambria Twp.	Chilton
Henslow's Sparrow	7	3	Clarence Twp.	Watson et al
"	9	1	Andover Twp.	Brooks
White-thr. Sparrow	<u>10,28</u>	1,2 PDBAs	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	<u>26,28</u>	3,2 PDBAs	W. Almond Twp.	Brooks
Pine Siskin	<u>30</u>	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	250
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	2
Total for year.	252

1992 WILLIAM C. VAUGHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

World- famous ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson presents "Birding the World" at the 1992 William C. Vaughan Memorial on Wednesday, November 11, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. at Rockwell Hall of the campus of Buffalo State College. The location has been selected to provide sufficient space for those interested and ample parking.

Dr. Peterson is also this year's recipient of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences George W. Clinton Award for Lifelong Achievements in the Natural Sciences.

The lecture is free, but reservations are required. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Roger Tory Peterson Lecture
Buffalo Museum of Science
1020 Humbolt Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Be sure to include the number of tickets requested (limit of four per household) when making your reservation request. There will no telephone reservations.

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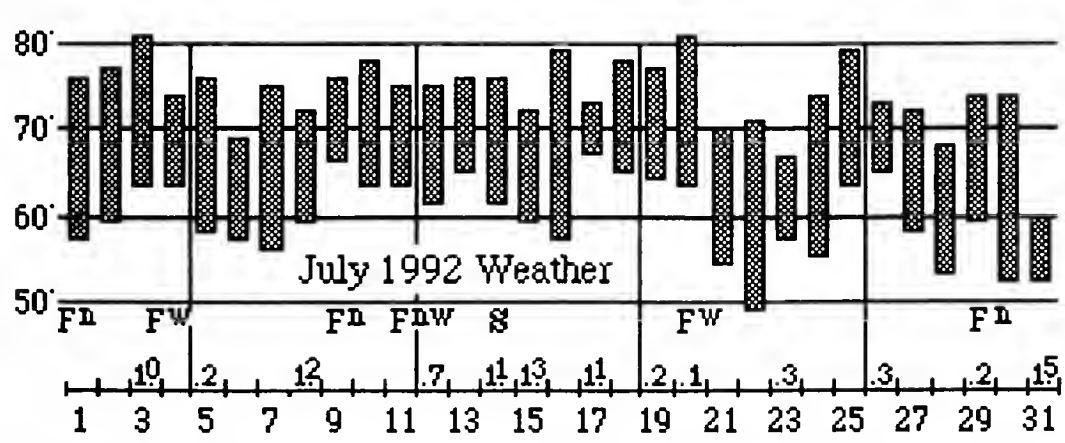
Volume 58

August 1992

Number 8

THE MONTH: July 1992

Donald Wuerch, Chief Meteorologist for the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo, begins his weather summary for this month with the statement, "July 1992 was the most unusual of the century in Greater Buffalo." He might have substituted "worst" for "most unusual" for he adds that it was the wettest in 120 years, the cloudiest in 77 years, and the coolest in at least 72 years. The suggested cause: a spring like jet stream through the area that usually passes farther north.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through together with the direction from which they came, Ss stationary fronts, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 4th was a Saturday, the 5th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

Consider the data. The temperature average was 66.8° F, almost 4° below normal. Note from the chart that on only two days the temperature reached 80°; normally this occurs on 19 days. Two date low records were set: the minimum of 49° on the 22nd and the maximum of 60° on the 31st.

Total rainfall was 8.9 inches, three times normal. Over an inch fell on five days, previous record three. Still more rain fell in Wyoming County where 13 inches was reported. Creeks were high but the rain was distributed over

the month so that there was no significant flooding.

The region had 41% of possible sunshine against an average of 68%. Only 1905 and 1915 had less. Lake Erie water temperature stayed at or near record lows, ending at a record low 67°.

As if that weren't enough, a tornado caused \$2 million in damage to Fredonia on the 12th. Fortunately no injuries were recorded.

Clearly this kind of weather continues the punishment already inflicted on birds of the region by the cold and rainy periods of May and June. (Unfortunately few of the observers who forward records to

the club statisticians include anything but material for the "Noteworthy Records" section that follows. This month again only two observers commented on the effects of weather. I urge others to include such comments with the records they submit. Such comments would certainly make preparation of this monthly report easier.)

Vivian Pitzrick: "Farmers reported poor germination of seed because of the cold season and haying has been a disaster with so few drying days. Many bluebird and Tree Swallow nestlings, although well feathered, were found dead in the nests. I think the cold weather killed off many insects which were needed as food for nestlings. I noted that House Wrens were late in nesting and caused less interference at my nest boxes than usual. Also nest boxes put out especially for House Wrens, or species preferring woodsy habitat, went unoccupied until much later than usual."

Rich Wells: "On June 20 and 21 temperatures never reached 50°F with a steady drizzle both days. This happened at a time when Tree Swallows are at their peak nesting period. Seventeen nests of young swallows totaling 82 young were killed. Six nestings managed to fledge 13 young and were at least partially successful with 22 nestlings dying. [Here are] four years of Tree Swallow nesting results [for 125 nest boxes]:

Tree Swallow	1989	1990	1991	1992
Nesting Attempts*	56	60	81	88
Successful Attempts**	51	49	67	38
No. Young Fledged	235	219	293	144
Young Fledged/Attempt	4.2	3.7	3.6	1.6
Nesting Success Rate	91%	82%	82%	43%

"Bluebirds did not suffer any more major weather related kill-offs as in late May but the cold weather did kill off more nestlings at various times. Three more nestings were lost to weather with an additional three lost to unknown reasons but probably weather, three to raccoons, three to House Sparrows, and one to House Wren competition. The total number of nesting attempts for bluebirds was down to 66 despite the fact that banding results were roughly the same for adult birds. This indicates to me that the number of breeding pairs remained about the same, so something else caused the attempted nestings to decline. I believe that the adult bluebirds had a difficult time feeding themselves, let alone trying to raise young. I've also had more reports of adults being found dead than seems normal."

Rich then attaches his summary of bluebird nesting success:

Eastern Bluebird	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Nesting Boxes	70	96	125	125	125	125	125	125
Nesting Attempts	25	31	54	74	74	86	79	66
Successful Attempts	13	23	39	52	59	51	58	39
No. Young Fledged	48	92	135	181	219	183	220	127
Young Fledged/Attempt	1.9	3.0	2.5	2.4	3.0	2.1	2.8	1.9
Nesting Success Rate	52%	74%	72%	70%	80%	59%	73%	59%

The 59% success rate is not down much from the overall 68% success rate and even compares favorably with 1985 and 1988; however, this is where Rich's comment about fewer attempts is important to consider. "Nesting Success Rate" is calculated as "Successful Attempts"/"Nesting Attempts" and the number of attempts this year was well down. (This was not true for Tree Swallows.)

Carol Spann, a bird rehabilitator in Attica Center, told me recently that this year's wet weather was very tough on ground nesting birds. She had many fledglings brought to her in very poor condition, including Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, and even a young Wild Turkey.

Exceptional Records. Many of us were quite excited earlier this year to see the White Pelicans at Iroquois. Now we have the even more remarkable occurrence of a Brown Pelican in the Niagara River off LaSalle Park. First noted on the 9th, it remained for at least one and I believe several days. I know of no record of this species for the region since one was recorded in the Niagara River at the foot of Sheridan Drive in late June of 1950. Almost certainly the same bird was seen near the mouth

* Nesting Attempt is scored if one egg is laid.

** Successful Attempt is scored if one young is fledged.

of Cattaraugus Creek on July 2 of that year (Beardslee and Mitchell, p. 92). Bull (p. 66) records the New York State status of this bird as "very rare". He gives nine Long Island records and only two upstate: the one just cited and an injured bird collected in Oswego County in December 1920. Finally Palmer (pp. 275) shows the species breeding along the Atlantic coast only as far north as North Carolina. He shows a few scattered records north to Delaware and one even in Nova Scotia. (New York State records are not recorded here.) Clearly this was a quite remarkable event.

Beardslee and Mitchell (p. 427) note the Red Crossbill as a "casual rare" summer resident here, this characterization evidently based on a few birds remaining to nest in Como Park, Eden, and East Aurora after the major winter incursion of the species in 1963-64. They cite only two July dates for them, both evidently recorded prior to 1888. Thus the scattered records this July represent excellent finds. Art Schaffner tells me that they include sure evidence of nesting as well. Note that this late nesting is not especially unusual. This species is as erratic in this regard as it is in its migrations: Terres (p.293) recording them as nesting from January (!) through August. Eaton (II, p. 265) suggests that this species flees to the south when there are major forest fires in the north. That surely is not the case (at least in eastern North America) this year.

Less spectacular but certainly worth note were three species that did not previously occur in July at least since 1986: Willet, Parasitic Jaeger, and Franklin's Gull. Quite unusual were the 13 Ruddy Ducks seen in the Batavia Sewage Lagoons. This species was last recorded in July in 1989.

Shorebirds. Here is how this year's early fall shorebird arrival dates fit with those of the past six years:

Species	1992	Ave 86-92	Early 86-92	Yrs Rec
Black-bellied Plover	July 31	August 2	July 6	7
Semi-palmated Plover	July 26	July 15	July 6	7
Greater Yellowlegs	July 30	July 9	June 23	7
Lesser Yellowlegs	July 3	June 29	June 23	7
Solitary Sandpiper	July 22	July 7	June 27	7
Whimbrel	—	July 23	July 6	4
Ruddy Turnstone	July 12	July 21	July 8	7
Sanderling	July 21	July 23	July 14	7
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	July 12	July 11	July 4	7
Least Sandpiper	July 3	June 29	June 26	7
Pectoral Sandpiper	July 31	July 18	July 8	7
Stilt Sandpiper	July 26	July 15	July 6	7
Short-billed Dowitcher	July 11	July 3	June 26	7
Wilson's Phalarope	—	July 30	July 4	6

Note that no early dates are set for this period and that only three species returned earlier than average.

Briefly Noted. This was surely the year of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The total of 25 on the Fish & Wildlife Service June Breeding Surveys far surpasses the previous high of 10. One other happy result on the F&W count was the fact that vireo and warbler numbers were well up this year, both groups near 26 year highs.

Brooks banded three sapsuckers in Alfred among her 166 new bands this year. Among her returns was a bluebird banded last year in May 270 miles away in Lucas, Ohio. Chilton's Marsh Wrens in Machias may represent breeding extensions. — G. Rising

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NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	3	1	East Otto Twp.	Harper
* <u>Brown Pelican</u>	9	1	LaSalle Pk., Bflo.	Brock, Watson et al
"	10	1	"	Schopp, D'Anna et al
D.-crest. Cormorant	3-21	186 max.	Rock Point PP	Watson
"	7,28	172,376	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson
"	19	250	Rock Point PP	D & D Suggs
American Bittern	2,28	1,1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Holmes
Least Bittern	28	1	Iroquois NWR	Holmes
Great Egret	8	1	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
"	8,13	3,5	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	28	1	"	Holmes
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	7	27	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	10	2	Motor Is., Niag. R.	Watson
Green-winged Teal	12	1	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, Potter
Northern Shoveler	27	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Roberson
Gadwall	2,13	1,2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	3	1	Rock Point PP	Watson
"	7,28	4,3	Niagara Falls	Watson
American Wigeon	6	4	Morgan's Pt., Ont	Watson
"	7	6	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	20	3	Oak Orchard WMA	"
Common Goldeneye	7	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Common Merganser	3	3	Camelot Beach, Ont	Andrle et al
"	7,28	7,2	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	11,21,31	1,1,1	Bertie Twp, Ont	"
"	26	1	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, Byron(BOS)
Red-b. Merganser	6,24	1,1	Morgan's Pt., Ont	Watson, Andrle et al
"	11	2	Bertie Twp, Ont	Watson
Ruddy Duck	22	13	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
Osprey	22	2 yo	Allegheny Reservoir	D & W Watson
"	22	2ad + 2y/nest	Onoville	"
"	27	1	Machias Twp	Chilton
Bald Eagle	8,13	1imm/nest	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21	1	Machias Twp	Chilton, Schaffner
"	25	1 imm.	Point Breeze	Listman
Sharp-sh. Hawk	2,27	1,1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	6	1	Little Valley Twp	Chilton

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Sharp-sh. Hawk	16	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	22	2	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Cooper's Hawk	8	1	West Seneca Twp	Chilton
"	26	1	Eden Twp.	Andrle
Black-bellied Plover	31F	1	Rock Point PP	Watson
Semipalmated Plover	26F	2	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, Byron(BOS)
"	31	5	"	Watson
Greater Yellowlegs	30F	1	Goat Island	D'Anna, Potter
Lesser Yellowlegs	3F,6	5,2	Rock Point PP	Watson
"	17	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	22F	1	Carleton Station	Listman, Nicoletti
"	27	2	Newstead Twp	Watson
*Willet	11,12	1	Rose Hill, Ont	Watson, D'Anna et al
Spotted Sandpiper	22	30	Batavia	Listman, Nicolletti
Upland Sandpiper	1	1	Granger Twp	Brooks, Palmer
"	29	1	Carleton Twp	Listman, Nicoletti
Ruddy Turnstone	12F,26	1,10	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, Potter et al
Sanderling	21F,26	4,20	Rock Point PP	Watson, D'Anna et al
Semipalm. Sandpiper	12F	8	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, Potter
Least Sandpiper	3F,16	3,35	Rock Point PP	Watson
Pectoral Sandpiper	31F	1	Rock Point PP	Watson
*Stilt Sandpiper	26F,31	1,1	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, Watson et al
Short-b. Dowitcher	11F	12	Rock Point PP	Watson
"	19	39	Rock Point PP	D & D Suggs
*Parasitic Jaeger	9	1	Buffalo	Morgante
*Franklin's Gull	9	1	Barcelona	Sundell
Bonaparte's Gull	3,6	3,19	Rock Point PP	Watson
"	11	72	Ft. Erie-Rock Pt	Watson
Caspian Tern	6,11,19	2,2,2	Rock Point PP	Watson, D & D Suggs
"	12	2	LaSalle Park, Bflo	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	1	Port Maitland, Ont	Andrle, Gregory
"	31	1	Bertie Twp, Ont	Watson
Black Tern	2,8,20	8,14,7	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	27	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Roberson
Black-billed Cuckoo	7	1	Amity Twp	Pitzrick
"	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	16	1	Bertie Twp, Ont	Watson
Common Nighthawk	28	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
Acadian Flycatcher	7,13	1,1 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	Roberson, Watson
"	14	1	Lakeview	Andrle
Bank Swallow	16	1020	Rock Point PP	Watson
Cliff Swallow	19-31	6 reports	Southern Tier	
Winter Wren	4	2	Yorkshire Twp	Chilton
"	6	1	Little Valley Twp	"
"	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
Marsh Wren	24,29	3,2	Machias Twp.	Chilton
Golden-cr. Kinglet	6	20 PDBA	McCarty Hill SF	Chilton
"	7	6 PDBA	Ward Twp	Brooks
"	8	3 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	19	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al
"	22	15	"	Watson
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	3	1	Wainfleet Twp, Ont	Watson
Solitary Vireo	8	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Yellow-thr. Vireo	1	1	Granger Twp	Brooks, Palmer
Yellow-r. Warbler	1-31	10 banded	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	8	3	Farmersville Twp	Chilton
"	16	3	Humphrey Twp	"
Prairie Warbler	<u>2</u>	1 PDBA	Andover Twp	Brooks
"	<u>6</u>	3ad + 4y	Amity Twp	Pitzrick
"	<u>6</u>	1 PDBA	Alfred Twp	Brooks
"	<u>7</u>	1 PDBA	Ward Twp	"
"	<u>16,24,30</u>	2,1,1 PDBA	Amity Twp	Pitzrick
Northern Waterthrush	4	1	Yorkshire Twp	Chilton
"	8	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	27	1	Machias Twp	Chilton
Vesper Sparrow	1-26	1-3	Andover Twp	Brooks
Henslow's Sparrow	25	1	Alfred Twp	Brooks
White-thr. Sparrow	<u>6</u>	2	McCarty Hill SF	Chilton
"	<u>27</u>	3	Machias Twp	"
*Red Crossbill	<u>16,21</u>	2,6	Humphrey Twp	Chilton
"	<u>19</u>	8	Golden Hill SF	D'Anna et al
"	<u>21</u>	2	McCarty Hill SF	Chilton, Schaffner
Pine Siskin	<u>18</u>	1	Beaver Meadow WR (f)	Harper et al
"	<u>20</u>	1	East Aurora (f)	Holmes

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	252
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	5
Total for year.	257

ERRATUM

[In the *Prothonotary*, Vol. 58, No. 6, pg. 67]

Least Sandpiper	May 2F	3	Eden Twp	D & D Suggs
<u>Should Read:</u>				
Least Sandpiper	May 2F	3	Bower & Pt Abino N Rds Fort Erie, Ont.	D & D Suggs

THE MILDRED BAKER McVEY FUND

In the fall of 1991, the B.O.S. was the recipient of an inheritance from the estate of Mildred Baker McVey. A timetable for discussing and approving the uses of this money was set up and culminated at the meeting on May 27, 1992. A brief summary of the approved proposals follows:

1. A fund was established called the "Mildred Baker McVey Memorial Fund."
2. The purpose of this fund will be to provide a continual source of income to fund, or partially fund, projects which the B.O.S. Council and members deem as worthwhile and in the best interest of the Society.
3. It is hoped that other B.O.S. members will make donations or similar bequests to the fund to insure and expand funding of worthwhile projects befitting the B.O.S. and wild birds in general.
4. The fund will start with approximately \$15,000.00 in it. In the future, approved projects will be funded from earned interest generated by the fund only.
5. The Council will serve as a grant committee. A process and time table was established.
 - a. Written grant requests are due by the first January meeting.

- b. Only members in good standing may submit requests.
- c. The Council will review all requests by the end of January.
- d. The Council will submit its recommendations at the first meeting in February for a vote by the membership.
- e. The grants will be awarded at the second meeting in February.
- f. At that time, a list (headed by Mildred Baker McVey) will be read which will acknowledge all persons who have contributed \$200.00 or more to the fund.
- g. Successful grant applicants will be required to report on their project, to be published in the *Prothonotary*, and may be invited to present a program at a future meeting.

The following grant proposals were voted on and passed on May 27, 1992:

- 1. \$500.00 to be donated to the William C. Vaughan Memorial Fund.
- 2. \$50.00 to be used to fund the printing of a bird checklist for the Tifft Nature Preserve.
- 3. \$300.00 to be used to purchase a 2-way communication system to be used during field trips.
- 4. \$150.00 to purchase a Bogen tripod to be donated to Tifft Nature Preserve.
- 5. \$300.00 to buy an aluminum Purple Martin house and pole to be erected at Tifft Nature Preserve.
- 6. \$400.00 to assist a nestbox project for Barn Owls. This would fund approximately 40 additional houses.

Note: A complete copy of the fund proposal should be available by the October 14, 1992 meeting.

Joseph DiDomenico

Reminder:

1992 WILLIAM C. VAUGHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

World- famous ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson presents "Birding the World" at the 1992 William C. Vaughan Memorial on Wednesday, November 11, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. at Rockwell Hall of the campus of Buffalo State College. The lecture is free, but reservations are required. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Roger Tory Peterson Lecture
Buffalo Museum of Science
1020 Humbolt Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

Be sure to include the number of tickets requested (limit of four per household) when making your reservation request. There will no telephone reservations.

On the Use of CB Radios On BOS Field Trips

On the July 26 Canadian shore trip three cars out of six had CB radios. The Leader, Dick Byron, was able to notify us of forthcoming coffee (rest) stops and of turns in the route. At one point Bob Brock lost us in heavy traffic but was talked back onto the right route. The feeling of being in close touch with the leader was very satisfying. Since this was a rainy day there were no roadside sightings. On another day there could be talk from the leader and between cars as to what was being seen.

The idea is to have a CB in each car. BOS has approved the purchase of \$300 in equipment so we should get one or two CB outfits and see how they work out as loaners. It can be a problem having them brought to the starting place so envision them being for visitors or for use as demonstrators by the members. Members should be encouraged to but their own outfits (costing about \$100). Several have indicated they expect to do so.

To dispel one concern, we checked with the Canadian Customs and they said there was no restriction on

the use of CB by US citizens in Canada.

My outfit came from Hirsch's in Williamsville. These men are very knowledgeable about communications equipment. I bought a Uniden PRO 510 receiver (\$60), a Hustler FG-27-S 48-inch centerloaded antenna (\$18), a 5-inch magnetic base with cable (\$19), and a cigarette lighter plug-in (\$2) which they installed. The total package was \$109. They emphasized that the antenna type and length was more important than the receiver as to performance. If this antenna seems a little long, perhaps a 36-inch centerloaded one would do about as well.

Hirsch is at 219 California Dr. in Williamsville, phone 632-1189. They are open weekdays noon to 10 pm and Saturdays 10 to 5 pm.

This outfit, in contact with Linc Nutting's medium-priced Radio Shack CB gave very clear voice transmission for over five miles on flat Grand Island. However, we are told that CB range is a very quirky thing with unexplained dead spots. This is in addition to the deadening effects of intervening hills and forests. This is where a good antenna is a help.

Brock and Byron choose walkie-talkie versions of the CB. This can be used away from the car (if the 10 batteries are fresh). In the car it can be powered by the cigarette lighter plug, and there it does require a roof top antenna. It is somewhat more expensive than the in-car type CB and the speaker is smaller. It is bulkier to hold than a simple mike.

you can quickly learn to use the CB. Just push the "transmit" button on the mike before you speak. No special language is needed. And remember – no one uses the term "good buddy" anymore.

Bill Burch

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Harold Axtell, we are sorrow to report, has been in rapidly failing health the last six months or so. Dr. Axtell is now in a Niagara Falls, Ontario nursing home and is confined to a wheelchair. When he speaks it is in short phrases and is almost inaudible. On his better days he recognizes old friends and his face lights up at their approach. He is visited weekly by several friends. A particular blessing is his friend Ernie Reinhart, a local fireman, who visits him daily and looks after his needs.

Harold, now 88, is one of the best-known ornithologists of the Eastern United States. He was Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Buffalo Museum of Science for many years.

At first his problem was diagnosed as Alzheimer's Disease, but later tests modified this somewhat to a dementia caused by a virus.

Harold is at the Oakwood Park Lodge, 6747 Oakwood Drive, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E6S5. The place can be reached from the QEW by taking the McLoed Road Exit. Go east (toward the city) a short block and turn left on the first street, which is Oakwood.

Bill Burch

BOS MEETINGS

Sept 23: Charles Rosenburg will speak on "Barn Owls." Also, nominations for the election of officers.

Oct. 9: **Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.** This is an important meeting!

Oct. 28 "Alaska and the Pribilof Islands" presented by Ed Johns of the Toronto Field Ornithologists.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

- Sept. 12-13: Saturday & Sunday. Hawk Cliff Weekend. (Rain date, Sept. 19-20). This is south of St. Thomas, Ont., where County Road 22 ends at the Lake Erie shore. It is 160 miles from Buffalo. The local bird club has activities here on both weekends. For further details call Bill Burch (773-3690).
- Oct. 2-4: Cape May Weekend of the New Jersey Audubon Society. Register by Sept. 12 for the \$230 package or bird on your own.
- Oct. 11: Sunday. BOS October Bird Count. Contact the Compiler, Charles Rosenberg (695-5844), for a territory. Please take part in this important activity.
- Oct. 18: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 8:00 am at Amherst Book World, 0.1 mile east of Main and Transit. Leader: Don Roberson (283-5359).
- Oct. 25: Sunday. Daylight Saving Time ends - Set clock back 1 hour.
- Oct. 31: **Saturday** not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara and Orleans Counties. Meet in Wright's Corners (north of Lockport) on Hwy 78 at the Tops Market at 8:00 am. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).
- Nov. 8: Sunday. Niagara Loop trip. Meet at 8:00 am at Vermont and Busti. Note: Trip may not cross to Ft. Erie at this time. Leader: Bill Broderick (745-3969).
- Nov. 22: Sunday. Niagara River for gulls and waterfowl. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 9:30 am at Ft. Niagara in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS and Bob Brock (876-5862).
- Dec. 6: Sunday. Buffalo waterfront and Niagara River. Meet at 8:00 am at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Dick Collins (683-3699).
- Dec. 19: Saturday. Beaver Meadow Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Dave Junkin (457-3228).
- Dec. 20: Sunday. BOS Christmas Bird Count, centered on Grand Island. Compiler: Bill Bogacki (674-5781).
- Dec. 27: Sunday. Niagara Falls, Ontario-New York Christmas Bird Count. Compilers: Kayo Roy (Ont) and Willie D'Anna (NY).

1993

- Jan. 2: Saturday. Audubon Chestnut Ridge Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Paul Lazarus (633-4185).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer: Jane Heyer, 296 Westchester Blvd., Kenmore, NY 14217
(875-3318).

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$0.50 per copy.

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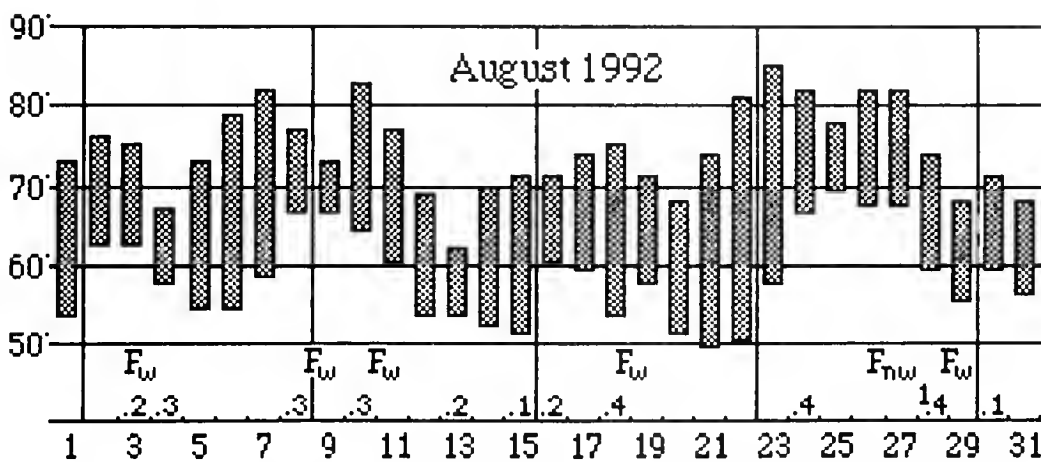
September 1992

Number 9

THE MONTH: August 1992

Our memories of this unattractive summer will mostly derive from June and July: August was not all that bad. The Weather Bureau considers the months of June, July, and August the summer season and this year they characterize that season as cloudy (5th cloudiest in history), cool (4th coolest), and wet (4th wettest)!

August was somewhat cooler than usual, but then I find most Augusts too hot for my taste any-



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through together with the direction from which they came, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 1st was a Saturday, the 2nd a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

way. It was also quite cloudy but drier than normal, despite a 1.4 inch downpour on the 28th swung in by the tail of this nation's most destructive storm, Hurricane Andrew.

The temperature average, 66.3°F, was 2.5° below normal but, as the chart suggests, the daytime range was mostly 60° to 80°. One record was set: the high of 62° on the 13th was lowest in local history. Those nighttime temperatures in the 50's made for comfortable sleeping. Lake Erie remained cooler than usual, only reaching 70° late in the month.

The precipitation total of 3.8 inches was down 0.4 from normal. (Recall that July had 9 inches.) And sunshine was down 8%.

In addition to the rain and thunderstorm of the 28th, there were three other events the Weather Bureau considered significant: a strong thunderstorm on the 8th that downed trees and power lines in the Southern Tier, a front-accompanying thunderstorm that provided a spectacular lightning display through the night of the 10th-11th, and a waterspout over eastern Lake Erie on the 19th.

With the few and widely spaced records of August, it is difficult to correlate arrivals with weather systems, but here are some fronts with associated arrival records:

Front Date	Species and August Arrival Date
8-9	White-rumped Sandpiper, 9
10-11	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Swainson's Thrush, 11; Black-and-white Warbler, 15
26-27	Baird's Sandpiper, Little Gull, 28; Golden Plover, Caspian Tern, Chestnut-sided, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Bay-breasted, and Wilson's Warblers, 29
29	Stilt and Curlew Sandpipers, Hudsonian Godwit, Mourning Warbler, 30

All of those associations must be viewed critically. The true connection may be more often with weekend coverage or BOS hike dates (for example, August 30) than with weather.

Exceptional Records. Still more cormorants, this month counts in the 700-800s. An Old Squaw along the north Erie shore: similar individuals have been recorded 3 of the previous 6 Augusts. A count of 150 Red-tailed Hawks at Point Breeze on the 24th, a date on which the Buffalo Weather Bureau reported wind out of the southwest! An immature Peregrine Falcon that spent a week in Niagara Falls. One excellent and one super shorebird at the St. Catherine's sewage lagoons: Hudsonian Godwit, seen also two years ago in August, and Curlew Sandpiper, in recent years seen only at the end of July in 1990. Mitchell and Andrie record a 1965 individual of this rare Asian species as well. Among land birds were the first August Orchard Oriole in seven years and rather widespread Red Crossbills, including a pair building a nest (!) in Golden Hills State Park.

Shorebirds. Here is an extension of last month's chart showing how this year's early fall shorebird arrival dates fit with those of the past six years:

Species	1992	Ave 86-92	Early 86-92	N
Lesser Golden Plover	August 29	August 30	August 24, 1986	7
Willet	—	August 17	August 11, 1987	3
Whimbrel	—	July 23	July 6, 1991	4
Red Knot	August 5	August 21	August 4, 1991	7
White-rumped Sandpiper	August 9	August 17	August 2, 1991	7
Baird's Sandpiper	August 28	August 21	August 1, 1990	7
Dunlin	—	September 17	August 31, 1986	5
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	—	September 8	August 31, 1989	2
Wilson's Phalarope	—	July 30	July 4, 1989	6
Red-necked Phalarope	—	September 4	August 23, 1987	5

Here too is the record of fall warbler arrivals with the records of the previous 6 years: 1986-1992:

Species	1992	86-92 Average	86-92 Earliest	N
Blue-winged Warbler	—	August 19	August 7, 1990	6
Golden-winged Warbler	—	August 29	August 28, 1990	4
Tennessee Warbler	—	August 25	August 17, 1987	6
Nashville Warbler	—	August 23	August 18, 1988	4
Northern Parula	—	September 9	August 27, 1988	5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	August 29	August 19	August 11, 1987	7
Magnolia Warbler	August 15	August 14	August 7, 1987	7
Cape May Warbler	August 29	August 24	August 15, 1991	7
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	August 29	August 23	August 19, 1989	7
Yellow-rumped Warbler	—	August 23	August 10, 1991	5
Black-thr. Green Warbler	August 25	August 24	August 20, 1990	7
Blackburnian Warbler	August 23	August 16	August 8, 1991	7
Pine Warbler	—	September 8	August 23, 1989	5
Bay-breasted Warbler	August 29	August 25	August 19, 1986	7
Blackpoll Warbler	—	August 29	August 22, 1990	6
Black-and-white Warbler	August 15	August 12	August 9, 1986	7
American Redstart	—	August 14	August 11, 1989,87	4
Ovenbird	—	August 25	August 20, 1990	4
Northern Waterthrush	—	August 11	August 2, 1991	6
Mourning Warbler	August 30	August 19	August 8, 1991	5
Wilson's Warbler	August 29	August 24	August 19, 1989	7
Canada Warbler	August 22	August 17	August 8, 1991	7

Briefly Noted. What have to be my two favorite records this month are Thill's and Hess's reports in Kenmore and Tonawanda of 35 and 32 nighthawks respectively. The Common Nighthawk is one of those species whose increasing rarity has come to belie its own first name. These records suggest that a few of these goatsuckers remain — or at least pass through — despite the invasion of urban areas by those damned crows, whose depredations of nighthawk eggs and young Thill has earlier reported. Oh for the good old days when you could watch a half dozen of these lovely evening fliers twisting and turning overhead when the evening baseball game action dragged.

Vivian Pitzrick's 150 box Amity Lake Bluebird Trail seems to have been slightly more successful than the trails reported last month. Her records show 57% nesting success for Eastern Bluebirds: 31 of 54 nests fledging young. Of the 32 pairs that nested, eight (25%) nested only once, 17 (53%) nested twice, and seven persistent pairs (22%) nested three times. There is no comparable data for the 84 nests utilized by Tree Swallows. — G. Rising

Literature Cited
Mitchell, Harold D. and Robert F. Andrle. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Supplement*.
Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, Volume 22 Supplement, 1970.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- * - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration
- (f) - Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
D.-crest Cormorant	4,24,25	361,740,682	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	13,28	1,10	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
"	15	110	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	18,19	700,800	Niagara Falls	Roberson
American Bittern	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
"	14	1	Machias Twp.	Chilton
Least Bittern	3	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Great Egret	3	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	4	2	Iroquois NWR	Listman, Nicoletti
"	11	1	over Ridgeway, Ont.	Thills
"	29	6	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	13	1	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
"	25	5	Tifft NP	Watson
Wood Duck	25	69	Iroq. NWR & vicinity	Roberson
Green-wing Teal	8,13	8,2	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
"	29	5	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
Northern Pintail	30F	1	St. Catharines Ont	D'Anna et al
Northern Shoveler	22F	1	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
Gadwall	29	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna, DiTommaso
American Wigeon	13	1	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
"	29	6	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Oldsquaw	6	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Chilton, Schaffner
"	26	1	Rock Point PP	McKale et al

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Oldsquaw	30	1	Rock Point PP	Watson, Byron(BOS)
Hooded Merganser	8,13	2,1	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
"	11	9	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	23	2	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	D'Anna, Rising(BOS)
"	25	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Common Merganser	4	3	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	6	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Chilton, Schaffner
Re-br. Merganser	6	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Chilton, Schaffner
Ruddy Duck	8,13	7,9	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
Osprey	1	1	Lowbanks, Ont.	Potter, D'Anna
"	17	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	24	1	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
Sharp-sh. Hawk	7	1	Franklinville Twp.	Holmes
"	9	1	Caneada	Pitzrick
"	11	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	24	1	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
Cooper's Hawk	26	1	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
"	28	1	Sheridan Twp.	Chilton
Red-shouldered Hawk	26	1	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
Red-tailed Hawk	24F	150	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
Peregrine Falcon	16,17	1 imm.	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	24,25	1 imm.	"	Watson
Black-bellied Plover	6	1	Dunnville Twp., Ont.	Chilton, Schaffner
"	9	6	Moulton Twp., Ont.	Potter, D'Anna
*Lesser Golden-Plover	29F,30	3,30	Moulton Twp., Ont.	Watson et al
Semipalmated Plover	22	3	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
Greater Yellowlegs	10	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Spotted Sandpiper	8	45	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
Hudsonian Godwit	30	1	St., Catharines, Ont	D'Anna, Smith et al
Red Knot	5F	2	Rock Point PP	Thill
Sanderling	8	2	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
Semipalm. Sandpiper	22	7	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
Least Sandpiper	22	14	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
White-r. Sandpiper	9F	1	Rock Point PP	Potter, D'Anna
"	23	1	"	Thills
"	30	3	Moulton Twp., Ont.	Watson,
Byron(BOS)	"	30	1	St. Catharines,
Ont. D'Anna et al				
*Baird's Sandpiper	28F	1	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
Pectoral Sandpiper	22	40	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
*Curlew Sandpiper	30	1	St. Catharines, Ont	D'Anna, Smith et al
Stilt Sandpiper	30	1	St. Catharines Sandpiper	D'Anna et al
*Franklin's Gull	30F	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Little Gull	28F	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna
"	30	4	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	D'Anna, Byron(BOS)
Caspian Tern	29	7	Shadagee-Olcott	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	30	1	Moulton Twp., Ont.	Watson et al
Black Tern	1	1	Morgan's Pt., Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
"	1	7	Ft. Erie-Niag. Falls	Potter, D'Anna
"	3	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	30,31	9,15	Fort Erie, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Common Nighthawk	7,11-31	2,1-32	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Nighthawk	25	2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	27	25	Kenmore	Thill
Red-headed Wdpkr.	6	1	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Chilton, Schaffner
"	29	4	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Yoerg
"	29	2	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Olive-s. Flycatcher	22F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	24	1	Humphrey Twp.	Chilton
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	17F,29	2,1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Bank Swallow	8,13	1000	Batavia	Listman, Nicoletti
Cliff Swallow	11	10	Machias Twp.	Chilton
"	30	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson, Byron(BOS)
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	2	Eden Twp.	Andrle
Carolina Wren	6,12	1,1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Golden-cr. Kinglet	3	14 PDBA	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	11	10 PDBA	McCarty Hill SP	Chilton
"	29	1(banded)	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Bl-gr. Gnatcatcher	11F	1	Rock Point PP	Watson
"	11-24	1-2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Swainson's Thrush	11F	1	Rock Point PP	Watson
"	29	1	Wales Twp.	O. Rosche
Solitary Vireo	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
Chestnut-s. Warbler	29F	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Magnolia Warbler	15F	1	Wilson-Tusc. SP	D'Anna, Potter
Cape May Warbler	29F	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Bl.-thr. Bl. Warbler	14,17	2,3	Humphrey Twp.	Chilton
"	29F	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	25F	1	Goat Island	D'Anna
Blackburnian Warbler	23F	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess
Prairie Warbler	5	1 PDBA	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Bay-breasted Warbler	29F	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Bl.-and-w. Warbler	14,17	1,1	Humphrey Twp.	Chilton
"	15F	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Waterthrush	5	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
La. Waterthrush	23L	1	Rock Point PP	Thills
Mourning Warbler	30F	1	Buffalo	D'Anna
Wilson's Warbler	29F	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Canada Warbler	22F	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
White-thr. Sparrow	17	2	Humphrey Twp.	Chilton
"	22	3	Gerry Twp.	Sundell
Orchard Oriole	1	2	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, Potter
Red Crossbill	5	16	Franklinville Twp.	Chilton
"	7,9,11	1,1,1	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	14,17	2 bldng nest	Golden Hill SP	Chilton
"	22	12	Gerry Twp.	Sundell

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded 257
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue 3
Total for year. 260

1992 Grimsby Hawkwatch Summary

by Walter Klabunde

The 1992 Hawkwatch at Beamer Conservation Area at Grimsby, Ontario was again under the direction of the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch. Even though total count from March 1 through May 17 was near average, 14,760 vs 14,980 for the 13 year average, it was unique. First, two species were added to the list: Black Vulture and Ferruginous Hawk. Also three species were recorded in record high numbers: Osprey, Bald Eagle and Red-tailed Hawk. In addition the numbers of three other species tied previous highs: Golden Eagle, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon. Finally, the numbers of Turkey Vultures and Red-shouldered Hawks rated second while Northern Harriers, Cooper's Hawks and Rough-legged Hawks rated third in 13 years of complete daily coverage.

On the other end of the scale, Sharp-shinned Hawks rated 11th, Broad-winged Hawks 8th and American Kestrel 10th in the 13 years.

Unusually the number of hawks migrating east through Braddock Bay is 3-5 times that migrating west through Grimsby. This year was no exception. The east migration count was 54,493 from February 10 through June 10, or 3.7 times the west flight. However through March the Grimsby count was 2.1 times the corresponding Braddock Bay count, 3,472 vs 1644. The reason for this phenomenon is that when Braddock Bay hawkwatchers complain about easterly and northerly winds Grimsby observers should rejoice. These conditions generally favor westward migration and this year account for the Black Vulture and Ferruginous Hawk going through Grimsby as well as the greater number of Red-shouldered Hawks, 1,183 vs 807. Northerly and easterly winds predominated during the first 6 weeks of the season until April 19. Although April 20 and 22 were peak count days at both Grimsby and Braddock Bay with SW winds, the counts were 1,265 & 1,342 vs 17,738 & 17,470, a ratio of 1 to 13.5.

Key to Abbreviations in Tables

TV	Turkey Vulture	OS	Osprey
BE	Bald Eagle	NH	Northern Harrier
SS	Sharp-shinned Hawk	CH	Cooper's Hawk
NG	Northern Goshawk	RS	Res-shouldered Hawk
BW	Broad-winged Hawk	RT	Red-tailed Hawk
RL	Rough-legged Hawk	GE	Golden Eagle
AK	American Kestrel	ML	Merlin
PG	Peregrine Falcon	UR	Unidentified Raptor

Unidentified Raptor Breakdown

1	Black Vulture
1	Ferruginous Hawk
59	Unidentified Accipters
499	Unidentified Buteos
3	Unidentified Eagles
8	Unidentified Falcons
104	Unidentified Raptors

March 1992

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>TV</u>	<u>BE</u>	<u>NH</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>CH</u>	<u>NG</u>	<u>RS</u>	<u>RT</u>	<u>RL</u>	<u>GE</u>	<u>AK</u>	<u>UR</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Wind</u>
1	6.5								4					4	WSW
2	6.5			1	1	2			129					133	E
3	7			1	2	1			198	2			1	205	NE
4	7				5	1	2	1	111			1		121	NE
5	6		1	2	3			1	24	1			2	34	NE
6	6	4			1				74		1			80	E
7	5			1										1	Var.
8	5.7					FOG								0	
9	7				3	2		13	53	3			23	97	SSW
10	7		1		3			24	11	1		2	1	43	S
11	0					Rain								0	
12	0							Not	Covered					0	
13	6.5						1	1	5					7	WNW
14	5.5							1	7					8	Var.
15	6				1			2	44				3	50	N
16	8	1	1			1		1	25	4				33	SSW
17	8.2	1		1	1				3					6	SW
18	7	2	1	1	5	10	1	42	243	1			4	310	Var.
19	8		1		4			4	44				3	56	NE
20	8	1		1	2				5			1	4	14	Var.
21	8.3	6		1	6	7		6	111	1				138	E
22	4						Snow		1					1	
23	7	5	1		3			5	23	2				39	Var.
24	8	2			2			1	47	2				54	Var.
25	7.2	60	2	5	11	3	5	32	32	2		9	5	169	S
26	6	6		1	2	6	1	73	23				4	116	SW
27							Rain							0	
28	7.8	23	1	1	4	1		27	69	1		4	4	135	NW
29	9	227	1	9	6	13	2	169	299	10	3	3	196	938	Var.
30	7.2	30		2	12	3	1	169	102	2	1	1	18	341	N
31	8	64		4	17	10		88	127	2	1	4	22	339	Var.
	193.4	432	10	31	94	60	13	660	1814	34	6	25	290	3472	

April 1992

Date	Hours	TV	OS	BI	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	Total	Win
1	6.5	63		1		4	2		28		83	1		1			4	187	Var.
2	6.8	19					1		12		54						7	93	NW
3	7.8	44		3		1	3		33		38	3	2	1			7	135	W
4	9	151			6	16	8		101		150	2		3			98*	535	N
5	9.5	164	1		1	7	4		6		59			2			10	254	NW
6	9	138		1	6	32	4	1	60		147	3	1	4			44	441	Var.
7	8.7	163	1		2	59	4		34		46	1		4			13	329	SSW
8	9.5	224	4	1	8	41	7	3	93		193	4	1	2			28	609	NW
9	9.5	71	1		3	37	10	1	29		75		1	4			16	248	SW
10	9	56			2	36	2	1	25		70	1		5			5	203	N
11	0		Rain															0	
12	7	21	16		1	16	3		1		17	1		3	2		1	82	NW
13	8.7	81	1	1	12	149	36	8	49		430	20		1	4	1	12 +	805	NE
14	7.3	55	4		8	62	1	1	2		91	3		7		1	3	238	W
15	7	11	3		11	148	5		12	1	86	7		5			5	294	E
16	0		Rain															0	
17	8.2	2				1			FOG									3	
18	6				1	1			Rain									2	
19	9.8	3	2		4	292	1			10	11	1		1	1		4	330	NNE
20	10.5	21	12	2	28	769	6		21	306	48	7		6	3	1	35	1265	SW
21	8.5	1			2	253	3		1	479	12						4	755	S
22	7.5	9			9	244	4			1035	28	2		3			8	1342	SW
23	8	82	1		5	130	1	3	2	78	25	1	1	1			30	360	SW
24	7.3	3	3		1	47	2			91	12							159	NE
25	8	22	1	1		64	2		4	40	4	2						140	
26	10	7	2	1	6	87	5		7	135	29	3		2		1	17	302	NE
27	7.7	12	3		1	29	1	1	2	35	36	4		3				127	NNE
28	10	30			8	83	4	1		97	47	7				1	7	285	NE
29	9.5	16	1		7	64	1		1	27	13			2			2	134	SSW
30	6.5	13			2	10	1			22	5							53	NE
	232.8	1482	56	11	134	2682	121	20	523	2356	1809	73	6	60	10	5	360		

*Includes 1 Black Vulture + Includes 1 Ferruginous Hawk

May 1992

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>TV</u>	<u>OS</u>	<u>BI</u>	<u>NH</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>CH</u>	<u>NG</u>	<u>RS</u>	<u>BW</u>	<u>RT</u>	<u>RL</u>	<u>AK</u>	<u>ML</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>UR</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Win</u>
1	7.4		2		5	173	1			96	5	2	1	1			286	Var.
2	7.8	4	1	1	1	105		1		26	3	1	3		1	2	149	SW
3	5.5	18			4	26	3			7	5	2				4	69	Var.
4	7.3	7	1		9	65	2			168	50	7	2			19	321	Var.
5	7.5	2			2	40	2		1	11	43					2	103	Var
6	8	7				25				10	24	4					70	N
7	6	1	1			11	2		2		7					5	29	NE
8	8	4	1			7					6			1		1	20	NE
9	8	8			4	21	1			1	2						37	N
10	9.2	2			1	1			1	1	15	2					23	NE
11	8	5	2		7	21				3	15						53	S
12	7	5			5	75	3			11	18						117	SSW
13	8	2				29				1	7		1			1	41	Var.
14	0							Not		Covered							0	
15	7.8	7			3	26	3			63	36	2					140	Var.
16	3					8	1			1							10	NE
17	3	4				9				6		1					20	SW
	111.5	76	8	1	41	642	18	1	4	405	236	21	7	2	1	34	1488	

Monthly Totals

<u>Month</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>TV</u>	<u>OS</u>	<u>BE</u>	<u>NH</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>CH</u>	<u>NG</u>	<u>RS</u>	<u>BW</u>	<u>RT</u>	<u>RL</u>	<u>GE</u>	<u>AK</u>	<u>ML</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>UR</u>	<u>Total</u>
March	193.4	432	0	10	31	94	60	13	660	0	1814	34	6	25	0	0	290	3472
April	232.8	1482	56	11	134	2682	121	20	532	2356	1809	73	6	60	10	5	360	9710
May	111.5	76	8	1	41	642	18	1	4	405	236	21	0	7	2	1	34	1488
	537.7	1990	64	22	206	3418	199	34	1196	2761	3859	128	12	92	12	6	684	14670

War Declared

Although admiring the House Sparrow for its ingenuity in finding food in parking lots by picking insects out of auto radiators, I find it expanding its nesting territories farther and farther into my Amity Lake Bluebird Trail as it chooses nest boxes ever more distant from buildings.

Pulling out the nest when it is just begun only causes the female to start another in the same box. Finally I discovered that if the female is allowed to continue her nesting cycle until the clutch is complete and incubation has begun before we pull out the nest and eggs, the pair usually moves on and another species can use the box, very often successfully. Of course, careful monitoring is essential.

Very often other species shun boxes whereas these weaver birds, as they are more correctly called, are plentiful. Perhaps this avoidance is good because House Sparrows are vicious. Introduced into this country from England soon after 1850, they have no natural enemies to keep them in control. They tend to usurp nesting cavities of other more desirable species.

This year after the "Sparrows" were actually no longer nesting, I stopped to monitor a bluebird nest, the final one for this season. There were eight or ten House Sparrows near the box and the two Adult bluebirds were trying to drive them away. When I went into the box, the sparrows apparently left, and I was happy to discover two well-feathered young bluebirds still there. However, on the next and final visit, the two nestlings were dead in the nest. Their eyes and heads had been pecked severely. What had happened, I think, was that the House Sparrows ganged up. While some monopolized the bluebird parents' attention, others entered the nest box and killed the nestlings.

Although this weaver bird may be less plentiful than during horse and buggy days, there are still more than enough around to cause havoc on a bluebird trail. I documented over 40 House Sparrow nestlings on mine this year. They should be discouraged from using our nesting boxes as well as our feeders. Fortunately severe winter weather often depletes their numbers somewhat, but just wait until the next nesting season!

It may be difficult for some of us to distinguish the House Sparrow from some of the other birds. The male is recognized by his black bib. The female might be confused with the female House Finch. Just remember that the female House Sparrow has a plain buffy breast (no stripes) plus a dull light eyebrow line. The female House Finch has a striped breast and plain brown head with no light eyebrow.

Declaring war on a species sounds harsh, but this "English" Sparrow should have been kept in his native country.

Vivian Pitzrick

BOS MEETINGS

- Oct. 28 "Alaska and the Pribilof Islands" presented by Ed Johns of the Toronto Field Ornithologists.
- Nov. 11: William C. Vaughan Memorial Lecture with Roger Tory Peterson on the Buffalo State Campus. Note: The regular meeting of the B.O.S. was been adjourned so that all who are interested will be able to attend this special event
- Dec 9: Annual Holiday Celebration. Bring a favorite treat to share and plan to have an enjoyable evening.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

- Oct. 18: Sunday. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 8:00 am at Amherst Book World, 0.1 mile east of Main and Transit. Leader: Don Roberson (283-5359).
- Oct. 25: Sunday. Daylight Saving Time ends - Set clock back 1 hour.
- Oct. 31: **Saturday** not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara and Orleans Counties. Meet in Wright's Corners (north of Lockport) on Hwy. 78 at the Tops Market at 8:00 am. Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348).
- Nov. 8: Sunday. Niagara Loop trip. Meet at 8:00 am at Vermont and Busti. Note: Trip may not cross to Ft. Erie at this time. Leader: Bill Broderick (745-3969).
- Nov. 22: Sunday. Niagara River for gulls and waterfowl. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 9:30 am at Ft. Niagara in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS and Bob Brock (876-5862).
- Dec. 6: Sunday. Buffalo waterfront and Niagara River. Meet at 8:00 am at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Dick Collins (683-3699).
- Dec. 19: Saturday. Beaver Meadow Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Dave Junkin (457-3228).
- Dec. 20: Sunday. BOS Christmas Bird Count, centered on Grand Island. Compiler: Bill Bogacki (674-5781).
- Dec. 27: Sunday. Niagara Falls, Ontario-New York Christmas Bird Count. Compilers: Kayo Roy (Ont.) and Willie D'Anna (NY).

1993

- Jan. 2: Saturday. Audubon Chestnut Ridge Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Paul Lazarus (633-4185).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

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October 1992

Number 10

THE MONTH: September 1992

The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo reported September as "seasonably mild and sunny, but still a bit wet," a description that fits the data quite reasonably. The temperature average was 61.6°F, down just 0.5° from normal, but that was influenced by the cool temperatures near the end of the month. (Frosts were recorded in interior areas on the 24th.) Earlier, as the chart shows, there were three days when the temperature reached 80°, making a total for the year of 26

days that hot, less than half the normal 53 such days. The Lake Erie temperature dropped to 65° by the end of the month, 1° above average for that date.

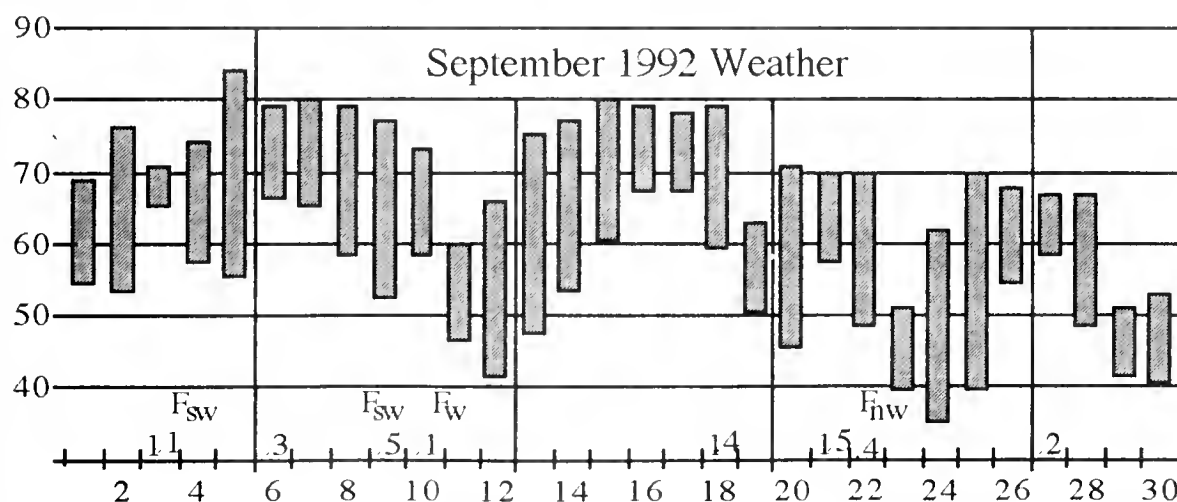
The precipitation total of 5.6 inches was 2.2 inches above normal, but this came in strong downpours that were widely spaced. Happily little of this rain fell on weekends and Labor Day was very pleasant.

On only eight days was there any northerly component to the wind. Those dates were: 4, 11, 20, 23-25, 28, and 30. Note from the chart that there was no rain on any

On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through together with the direction from which they came, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 5th was a Saturday, the 6th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

of those days with the 4th, 11th, and 23rd to 25th each following fronts and thus good candidates for southward movements.

Let's see how those possible migration days might have brought in species. It is quite possible, of course, that these birds came in without the assistance of pushes from the north, and, as noted last month, coverage probably influences these dates even more than do the fronts and winds.



Movement Date	Species and First Recorded September Arrival Date
from August	Dunlin 3, Cape May Warbler 2, Yellow-rumped Warbler 1
4	Winter Wren 9, Solitary Vireo 10, Tennessee Warbler 6, Orange-crowned Warbler 9, Blackpoll Warbler 8, White-throated Sparrow 9
11	Common Loon, 19, Lesser Scaup 13, White-winged Scoter 12, Red-breasted Merganser 19, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 19, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray-cheeked Thrush 19, Philadelphia Vireo 12, Palm Warbler 21, Lincoln's Sparrow 19
23-25	Golden-crowned Kinglet 27, Dark-eyed Junco 23

Exceptional Records. Two Merlins and two or three Peregrine Falcons were reported. Merlins were recorded in two of the previous six Septembers, peregrines in only one. The Hudsonian Godwit was the first September record in seven years. As if to contradict my comments about low numbers of Common Nighthawks last month, Benham observed a flock of 120 migrants in Kenmore on the 5th; needless to say, I am delighted.

Shorebirds. We can only add one record to last month's chart showing how this year's fall shorebird arrival dates fit with those of the previous six years and we are left with seven expected species not yet recorded this season:

Species	1992	86-92 Average	86-92 Earliest	N
Willet	—	August 17	August 11, 1987	3
Whimbrel	—	July 23	July 6, 1991	4
Purple Sandpiper	—	November 10	November 5, 1986,89	6
Dunlin	September 3	September 17	August 31, 1986	5
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	—	September 8	August 31, 1989	2
Wilson's Phalarope	—	July 30	July 4, 1989	6
Red-necked Phalarope	—	September 4	August 23, 1987	5
Red Phalarope	—	October 19	October 12, 1987	3

Warblers. Here too is a continuation of the record of fall warbler arrivals as compared with the records of the previous six years:

Species	1992	86-92 Average	86-92 Earliest	N
Blue-winged Warbler	—	August 19	August 7, 1990	6
Golden-winged Warbler	—	August 29	August 28, 1990	4
Tennessee Warbler	September 6	August 25	August 17, 1987	6
Orange-crowned Warbler	September 9	September 19	September 9, 1992	5
Nashville Warbler	*	August 23	August 18, 1988	4
Northern Parula	—	September 9	August 27, 1988	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	September 1	August 27	August 10, 1991	7
Pine Warbler	—	September 8	August 23, 1989	5
Palm Warbler	September 21	September 14	September 2, 1989	7
Blackpoll Warbler	September 8	August 30	August 22, 1990	7
American Redstart	*	August 14	August 11, 1987,89	4
Ovenbird	*	August 25	August 20, 1990	4
Northern Waterthrush	*	August 11	August 2, 1991	6

The species with an asterisk in the second column were recorded during August or September, but arrival dates could not be assigned.

Briefly Noted. Holmes watched an immature accipiter attacking two Pileated Woodpeckers at Sinking Ponds on the 19th. The woodpeckers frustrated these attacks by circling trees to the side away from the hawk. Of the 54 warblers of 14 species banded by Brooks in September, 11 Magnolia and 10 Nashville Warblers were the most common. Chilton noted Red Crossbills continuing in Golden Hill State Forest. — G. Rising

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	19F	3	Shadigee	D'Anna
D.-crest Cormorant	19,30	824,783	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	26	5	Iroquois NWR	"
Least Bittern	5L	1	Tifft NP	Andrle et al
Great Egret	12,26	1,1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	2,13,27	5,5,3	Tifft NP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	1	2	St. Catharine's, Ont.	Watson, Schaffner
Northern Pintail	12	9	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	12	1	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
American Wigeon	12	110	Ircq. NWR & vicinity	Watson
Redhead	26(probable release) 4		Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Lesser Scaup	13F	11	Lewiston Reservoir	D'Anna
"	30	65	Point Breeze, Lake Ont.	Listman
Scaup species	30	120	Niagara Falls	Watson
White-winged Scoter	12F	3	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
Red-br. Merganser	19F	6	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna
Broad-winged Hawk	13L	1	Four Mile Creek S.P.	D'Anna
<u>Merlin</u>	3	1	Dunnville Twp., Ont.	Andrle et al
"	12	1	Somerset Twp.	Potter, D'Anna
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	1	1	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	23	1 imm.	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	27	1	Buffalo	Watson
Black-bellied Plover	28	4	Dunkirk	Chilton
Lesser Golden-Plover	1,27	110,40	Carlton Twp.	Listman
"	3	28	Dunnville Twp., Ont.	Andrle et al
"	3	14	St. Catharine's, Ont.	Rising
"	5,6	20,5	Clarence Twp.	Holmes
"	7	22	Moulton Twp., Ont.	Watson
"	26	3	Clarence Twp.	Watson
Spotted Sandpiper	21	1	East Aurora	Holmes
<u>Hudsonian Godwit</u>	3	1	St. Catharine's, Ont.	Rew, Hebb
Red Knot	3	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Andrle et al, Rew
"	9,12	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
White-r. Sandpiper	1	2	St. Catharine's, Ont.	Watson
"	3	2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Rew, Hebb
Baird's Sandpiper	2	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Rew
"	5,6	4	Clarence Twp.	Holmes
"	7	1	Barcelona Harbor	Sundell
Dunlin "	3F	8	St. Catharine's, Ont.	Rising

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Little Gull	20	1	Lewiston Reservoir	D'Anna
Caspian Tern	22L	1	Buffalo	D'Anna
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	20	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Common Nighthawk	2,4	2,3	East Aurora	Holmes
"	4-15	11 max.	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess
"	5	120	Kenmore	Benham
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	14	1	Carrollton Twp.	Eaton
Red-headed Wdpkr.	12,13	2,1	Fort Niagara S. P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Evans Twp.	Chilton
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	19F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	26	3	Iroq. NWR & vicinity	Watson
Olive-s. Flycatcher	5,12	1,1	Golden Hill S.P.	Chilton
Eastern Wood-Pewee	29	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess
"	29	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	8	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	12L	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Chilton
Least Flycatcher	20L	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	20L	1	Wales Twp.	O. Rosche
Eastern Kingbird	12L	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
"	12L	1	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
Horned Lark	12,26	42,36	Clarence Twp.	Watson
Bank Swallow	12L	1	Clarence Twp.	Watson
Barn Swallow	12	24	Somerset to Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Tufted Titmouse	1-30	2	Eden Twp.	Andrle
"	2	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	26	1	Newstead Twp.	Watson
Winter Wren	9F	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna
"	12	1	Golden Hill S.P.	Chilton
"	29	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Golden-cr. Kinglet	7-29	(banded) 1-2	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	12,26	9,9 PDBA	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	20	3	Ward Twp.	Brooks
"	27F	2	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	29	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	12F	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	20	2	Wales Twp.	O. Rosche
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	2L	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Veery	19L	1	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna
Gray-cheeked Thrush	19F,20	1,1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	20	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	22	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess
Hermit Thrush	20,29	1,1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	Evans Twp.	Chilton
Brown Thrasher	20	4	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Solitary Vireo	10F	1	Prendergast Point	Sundell
Warbling Vireo	20L	2	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Philadelphia Vireo	12F	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
"	12F	2	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	12F	1	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Tennessee Warbler	6F,7	3	Charlotte Twp.	Rew

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Tennessee Warbler	14	1	Franklinville Twp.	Holmes
Orange-cr. Warbler	9F	1	Fort Niagara S.P.	D'Anna
"	20	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	26	1	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Nashville Warbler	6,7	2	Charlotte Twp.	Rew
Yellow Warbler	19L	1	Golden Hill S.P.	D'Anna
Chestnut-s. Warbler	2	2	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	2	3	East Aurora	Holmes
Magnolia Warbler	1	2	East Aurora	Holmes
Cape May Warbler	2F	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	9	2	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	10	14	Prendergast Point	Sundell
Yellow-r. Warbler	1F	1	New Oregon	Holmes
"	2	3	East Aurora	Holmes
"	6,7	20	Charlotte Twp.	Rew
Blackburnian Warbler	2	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	2	2	East Aurora	Holmes
Palm Warbler	21F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Bay-breasted Warbler	3	1	Buckhorn Is. S.P.	Watson
Blackpoll Warbler	8F	1	Tifft N.P.	Holmes(EABC)
"	20,22	1,1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Ovenbird	20	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Northern Waterthrush	9	2	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Mourning Warbler	15L	1	Franklinville Twp.	Holmes
Hooded Warbler	23L	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Wilson's Warbler	7	1	Rock Point P.P.	Watson et al
Canada Warbler	1	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Vesper Sparrow	9	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna
Lincoln's Sparrow	19F	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
White-thr. Sparrow	9F	2	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna
"	12	2	Iroquois N.W.R.	Watson
Dark-eyed Junco	23F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Oriole	2L	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Purple Finch	19	21	Golden Hill S.P.	Chilton

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded	260
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	0
Total for year.	260

Erratum

In Prothonotary September 1991, Vol. 57 No. 9:

White-winged Scoter	Aug. 30F	1	Rock Point PP	Yoerg et al
Should read:				
White-winged Scoter	Aug. 29F	1	Rock Point PP	Yoerg et al

A Good Day At Hawk Cliff, Ont. September 11, 1992

The BOS has a fall field trip to Hawk Cliff about every third year, but some members go every year, carefully picking a promising day. With memories of our rained-out spring hawk trips it appeared appropriate to try again this fall. So with rather short notice, a trip to Hawk Cliff was announced at the September 9th meeting. Bob Andrie had been watching the approaching cold front and predicted it would pass in time to give a good Broadwing flight on the approaching Friday and to a lesser degree, Saturday.

Nine BOS members were able to start early Friday morning so as to cover the 165 miles and be at the hawk site around 9:00 a.m. (D.S.T.). Hawk Cliff is south of St. Thomas, Ontario, where local road 22 ends at the Lake Erie shore. Cars are parked side-by-side on the west side of the dirt road, lawn chairs are unpacked, and we watch to the east where sharpies, kestrels and harriers come in low over the tobacco field. Some, flying over the lake, will be below eye level.

Friday was a mild sunny day with scattered cumulus clouds to relieve the blue sky. The 10 mph wind was from the northwest, the ideal direction to push the flight against the shore. Among the early crowd of 25 or so persons were watchers from Hamilton and Toronto, who like ourselves had read the weather.

At 9:00 a.m. (D.S.T.) the sharp-shins and the kestrels were coming through and being duly counted by the compiler. Soon the Broadwing flight began, and by mid-day they were sailing by in strings of 100 and with little kettling. It was evident that it would be a good Broadwing day, but not a record-breaker. By 4:00 p.m. 3945 Broadwings had passed overhead and in a final rush hour the day's total came to 5552. Interspersed with all this were Northern Harriers and Ospreys coming in at tree-height over the tobacco field, as well as a Merlin which perched for 15 seconds on a dead tree across the road from the group. Truly it was a day to be remembered—an exceptional hawk flight on a lovely day in the company of good companions.

The complete raptor count for Friday was 378 Sharp-shinned, 3 Cooper's, 179 Kestrels, 1 Merlin, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 5552 Broadwings, 2 Red-shouldered, 8 Red-tailed, 45 Northern Harrier, 15 Osprey, 7 Bald Eagles and 14 Turkey Vultures.

Saturday saw a diminishment of the Broadwing flight (1000 by noon) as the wind shifted from north to south. On Saturday and Sunday local birders come to watch the hawk banding display as well as the hawk flight. On this and the following weekend there is an organized activity (refreshment stand, exhibits, banding, and comfort stations) put on by the St. Thomas Field Naturalists and the Ontario Conservation office.

As a diversion there was fair warbler watching (about seven species) in the nearby brush. This year the Monarch butterflies and hummingbirds (about 4) were scarce.

At 1:00 p.m. Saturday several of us left to examine the ponds on the area. This year it wasn't worth while. The lagoons west of Port Stanley had only some Blue-winged Teal and a Shoveler. Near Aylmer the sewage lagoon and the Police College pond were full and had no shorebirds and few ducks.

Motels were readily available. Some of us stayed at the Cardinal Court Motel, \$45US for two beds, located on Hwy. 4, one quarter mile south of Hwy. 3 (Phone 519-633-0740). Others stayed at the more upscale Journey's End Motel at the east end of St. Thomas on Hwy. 3. The group enjoyed a dinner at the Talbot Trail Tea House, across the street from the statue of Jumbo the elephant at the west end of Talbot Street.

Bill Burch

Federation of New York State Bird Clubs Meeting September 25-27, 1992

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs met this year in Oneonta on the last weekend in September. Over 200 members and friends attended all or part of the weekend session which included the annual meeting of delegates; two Friday evening talks, the first on butterflies and the second on gull identification; several Saturday and Sunday field trips; an excellent paper session on Saturday afternoon; and a Saturday evening banquet at which

Roger Tory Peterson signed books and then spoke.

At the paper session the first talk was about night migrants identified by their calls at stations in Oneonta, Watkins Glen and Alfred. It focused on five species (with 1991 migration peak dates and numbers): Veery (August 23: 198); Swainson's Thrush (September 19: 166); Gray-checked Thrush (September 12: 119); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (September 12: 141); and Bobolink (August 23: 139). The second was about the Oneonta Hawk Watch taken at Franklin Mountain. Highlights of last year included 60 Golden Eagles, eight in one hour. The third paper was about Golden-winged Warbler nesting success, which is influenced by a combination of three factors: presence of Blue-winged Warblers, habitat, and cowbird parasitism. It appears that Blue-wings "force" Golden-wings out of forested areas into areas of greater cowbird parasitism. One interesting point: at the same time the Golden-winged Warbler is being lost in the interior of its range, it is expanding that range around its edges, particularly in Ontario, Canada.

A third paper described a Natural Heritage Program that seeks to support with research data the acquisition and protection by Nature Conservancy of critical songbird stopover sites along Lake Ontario. The final paper described extensive experimentation related to types of bluebird house. It appeared from these results that the so-called Peterson box enjoys a much higher success rate for both Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows.

President Stan Lincoln chaired the delegate assembly. The membership chair reported 41 clubs and 714 members. The annual waterfowl count dates were announced: January 16-24 with a target date of January 17. Final details of two new listing initiatives are being worked out: a "200 Club" patch for birders who have seen 200 species in New York State (designed to encourage new birders) and a listing of species by county, this to encourage more birding in less well covered areas.

The conservation committee report included a number of concerns. The most important for western New York State birders is the proposal by the DEC to clear cut more of the Boutwell State Forest, a problem brought forward by BOS member Ray Budniewski of Sheridan. (BOS members should consider political contacts to support Ray.) Other problems included a proposal to build a subdivision on 17,000 acres of Orange County forests (at the New Jersey border), inroads on Federal programs for wetlands and endangered species, the Adirondacks, gull killing at JFK Airport, Hydro Quebec's activities in the Hudson's Bay area, and open space. Later in the meeting Eric Freed of DEC reported on some of these matters as well as cormorant problems and moose restoration.

The current slate of officers was reelected, the only change being the replacement of Mary Ann Sunderland by Carl Eastwood as corresponding secretary (earlier in the year after the death of the incumbent).

I make two strong recommendations. First, all who are not already individual members of the Federation should join. Individual membership is \$15, family \$20. Send this together with your name(s) and address to Mrs. Myrna Hemmerick, P.O.Box 2203, Setauket, NY 11773. Second, plan to attend the next meeting in Watertown on September 11-12. Peter Dunn has already agreed to serve as banquet speaker. If that meeting is half as interesting and convivial as the Oneonta meeting, you will be very well served. (That will be true even if the White-winged Tern doesn't put in another appearance.) — G. Rising

1992 U.S.F.&G. Breeding Bird Survey for Western New York by Walter Klabunde

Since 1967, Members and friends of B.O.S. have cooperated annually in this breeding bird survey. Essentially, the procedure (see *Prothonotary*, Vol. 33 No. 10, pg. 12. 1968) involves the recording of all birds seen or heard in three minutes at each of 50 stops one-half mile apart on a defined route by one observer starting one-half hour before sunrise on any day in June. There are 18 routes in Western New York which are shown on a map (see *Prothonotary*, Vol. 57 No. 10, pg. 121. 1991). In ten years all routes were covered. One route was missed on each of nine years and two were missed on six other years including this year. In 1982 when more than four routes were not covered the survey was eliminated.

The following listing shows the observers and assistants for each route.

<u>Route</u>		<u>Cooperator</u>	
<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Observer</u>	<u>Assistant</u>
045	Phillip's Creek	Elizabeth Brooks	Doris Burton
046	Swain	Elizabeth Brooks	Clarence Klingsmith
052	Mt. Morris	Douglas Basset	Nellie Basset
053	Hamburg	William Bogacki	none
054	West Seneca	Joe DiDomenico	Diane DiDomenico
055	Gainesville	John Milton	none
056	Cattaraugus	Timothy Baird	Stephen W. Eaton
057	East Java	Dave Junkin	Marty Junkin
058	Castile	Douglas Basset	Nellie Basset
059	Randolph	Timothy Baird	Stephen W. Eaton
060	Centerville	Wavel Barber	Maxine Barber
061	Sheridan	Frances Rew	Lois Buck
062	Cherry Hill	Robert Sundell	none
063	Nashville	Gerald Rising	Isabel Rising
064	St. Johnsburg	not covered	
065	E. Youngstown	Willie D'Anna	Betsy Potter
066	Byron	not covered	
111	South Vandallia	Regina VanScoy	James VanScoy

Over the 25 years the total number of species per year has ranged from 107 to 127 with 115 as the median. This year the total was 119 species, which includes one new species (Common Raven). This brings the total over the 26 years to 171 including one hybrid (Brewster's Warbler) and six late migrants (Lesser Golden Plover, Caspian Tern, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Blackpoll Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird), leaving a net 164 species plus one hybrid. The total species per route ranged from 43 to 79 with 62.5 as the median, while total individuals varied from 390 to 1580 for an actual total of 14,378 for the 16 routes covered and an adjusted total for the 18 routes of 17,243.

The following listing shows how the status relates to rank in the 26 years as well as the number of species in each status.

<u>Status</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number</u>
H+	1	20
H	2 & 3	22
H-	4,5 & 6	13
M+	7,8,9 & 10	22
M	11,12,13,14,15, &16	13
M-	17,18,19 & 20	14
L+	21,22 & 23	9
L	24 & 25	3
L-	26	3

Table I shows the species recorded as well as their status in respect to numbers in past years also the adjusted totals and the percentage of routes in which the species were recorded. An asterisk after the species name in Table I indicates it has been recorded every year.

TABLE I

<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%Rts</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%Rts</u>
Great Blue Heron*2	M+	28	72	Marsh Wren	H+	12	11
Green-backed Heron*	L-	5	22	Golden-cr. Kinglet	H-	9	17
Canada Goose	H	44	33	Eastern Bluebird*	H	23	72
Wood Duck	M	5	22	Veery*	H-	52	72
Mallard*	M+	44	67	Hermit Thrush	M+	4	11
Turkey Vulture	H	19	28	Wood Thrush*	M-	130	94
Northern Harrier	M+	3	17	American Robin	M+	1613	100
Sharp-sh. Hawk	M+	1	6	Gray Catbird	H-	224	100
Cooper's Hawk	H	2	11	N. Mockingbird	H+	5	11
Red-shouldered Hawk	M-	2	11	Brown Thrasher*	M-	13	39
Red-tailed Hawk*	M	22	61	Cedar Waxwing*	M-	183	100
American Kestrel*	M-	15	56	European Starling*	L+	1986	100
Ring-n. Pheasant	M-	91	50	Solitary Vireo	H+	11	22
Wild Turkey	M+	4	22	Yellow-thr. Vireo*	M+	3	11
Killdeer*	M	177	100	Warbling Vireo*	H-	70	83
Spotted Sandpiper*	H	9	17	Red-eyed Vireo*	H-	183	94
Upland Sandpiper	M-	1	6	Blue-winged Warbler*	H-	23	45
Ring-billed Gull	M+	339	28	Nashville Warbler	H+	5	11
Rock Dove*	M	390	94	Yellow Warbler*	H	437	100
Mourning Dove*	H	501	100	Chestnut-s. Warbler	H+	63	67
Black-billed Cuckoo*	M-	9	39	Magnolia Warbler	H+	27	28
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	M	2	11	Yellow-rump. Warbler	H+	11	17
Great-Horned Owl	M+	3	11	Bl.-thr. Green Warbler*	M-	16	22
Barred Owl	H-	2	11	Blackburnian Warbler*	H+	19	28
Common Nighthawk	H	1	6	Prairie Warbler	H-	1	6
Chimney Swift*	M-	40	61	American Redstart *	M+	29	50
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird*	M	4	17	Ovenbird*	H	58	61
Belted Kingfisher*	M	12	39	Mourning Warbler*	H	21	50
Red-bellied Woodpkr.	H-	8	28	Common Yellowthroat	H+	325	94
Yel.-bellied Sapsucker	H+	25	39	Nor. Waterthrush	M+	1	6
Downy Woodpkr.*	M+	37	78	La. Waterthrush	M+	1	6
Hairy Woodpecker*	M	3	17	Hooded Warbler	M+	6	22
Northern Flicker*	M-	40	89	Canada Warbler	L+	1	6
Pileated Woodpkr.*	H	5	28	Scarlet Tanager*	H+	39	72
Eastern Wood-Pewee*	L+	34	72	Northern Cardinal*	H+	220	100
Acadian Flycatcher	H-	1	6	Rose-br. Grosbeak*	H	75	78
Alder Flycatcher*	H+	32	56	Indigo Bunting*	H-	171	83
Willow Flycatcher*	M+	78	83	Rufous-s. Towhee*	L+	38	50
Least Flycatcher*	M+	66	89	Chipping Sparrow*	M+	375	100
Eastern Phoebe	H	69	89	Field Sparrow*	L+	108	83
Great Cr. Flycatcher*	M+	36	95	Vesper Sparrow*	L	10	11
Eastern Flycatcher*	M+	88	94	Savannah Sparrow	L+	318	94
Horned Lark*	L+	32	22	Grasshopper Sparrow	L+	3	6
Purple Martin*	M	31	33	Henslow's Sparrow	M	3	11
Tree Sparrow*	H-	74	83	Song Sparrow*	M-	887	100
N. Rough-w. Swallow*	M	7	28	Swamp Sparrow*	H+	42	56
Bank Swallow*	M-	34	45	Wh.-throated Sparrow	H	5	11
Cliff Sparrow	H+	51	33	Dark-eyed Junco*	H+	38	50
Barn Swallow*	M-	446	100	Bobolink*	H	515	100

Blue Jay*	M	123	100	Red-w. Blackbird*	L	1822	100
American Crow	H	873	100	Eastern Meadowlark*	L-	138	94
Common Raven	H+	2	6	Common Grackle	L-	833	100
Bl.-cap. Chickadee*	H	131	83	Brown-headed Cowbird*	L+	129	89
Tufted Titmouse	H	3	11	Northern Oriole*	M	106	100
Red-br. Nuthatch	H	8	17	Purple Finch	M+	19	33
White-br. Nuthatch*	H-	16	45	House Finch	H	254	100
Brown Creeper	H	4	17	Pine Siskin	H+	2	6
Carolina Wren	H	1	6	American Goldfinch*	H+	436	100
House Wren*	H-	219	100	House Sparrow*	M+	741	100
Winter Wren	H+	5	11				

Table II lists those species which appear to be definitely increasing or decreasing, based on the premise that a species is considered to be increasing if its numbers exceeded its median number for at least the last six years or decreasing if the numbers are below the median. By this definition the maximum number of years must be 13 for a 26 year period.

Table II

<u>Species</u> <u>Increasing</u>	<u>Years Above</u> <u>Median</u>	<u>Species</u> <u>Decreasing</u>	<u>Years Below</u> <u>Median</u>
Great Blue Heron	13	Northern Flicker	11
Canada Goose	10	Brown Thrasher	10
Turkey Vulture	9	Rufous-sided Towhee	9
Northern Harrier	8	Field Sparrow	9
Rock Dove	10	Savannah Sparrow	13
Mourning Dove	13	Grasshopper Sparrow	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12	Henslow's Sparrow	10
Tree Sparrow	8	Red-winged Blackbird	13
Blue Jay	11	Eastern Meadowlark	11
American Crow	9	Common Grackle	7
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11	Northern Oriole	8
Golden-crown Kinglet	7	House Sparrow	9
Cedar Waxwing	7		
Yellow Warbler	6		
Northern Cardinal	11		
Chipping Sparrow	13		
Dark-eyed Junco	11		
House Finch	12		

BOS OFFICERS

The Following Were Elected At The Society's Annual Meeting:

President: Joe DiDomenico
Vice President: Mike Galas
Recording Secretary: Don Brasure
Corresponding Secretary: Diane Chrisman
Treasurer: Jane Heyer
Librarian & Records Custodian: Audrey Horbet
Statisticians: Fran Rew & Bob Andrle

BOS Council - 3 year term:

Morgan Jones

Victoria Onorato

Ton Insalaco

Continuing on the Council with terms expiring in 1993:

Bruce Chilton, Ellen Schopp, & Mike Galas.

Continuing on the Council with terms expiring in 1994:

Betsy Potter, Gerry Rising, & Dick Collins

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Members of the Buffalo Ornithological Society

Note With Sadness the Death of:

Harold Axtell

BOS MEETINGS

Dec 9: Annual Holiday Celebration. Bring a favorite treat to share and plan to have an enjoyable evening.

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

Nov. 22: Sunday. Niagara River for gulls and waterfowl. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 9:30 am at Ft. Niagara in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Leaders: Bob Spahn of GOS and Bob Brock (876-5862).

Dec. 6: Sunday. Buffalo waterfront and Niagara River. Meet at 8:00 am at Vermont and Busti. Leader: Dick Collins (683-3699).

Dec. 19: Saturday. Beaver Meadow Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Dave Junkin (457-3228).

Dec. 20: Sunday. BOS Christmas Bird Count, centered on Grand Island. Compiler: Bill Bogacki (674-5781).

Dec. 27: Sunday. Niagara Falls, Ontario-New York Christmas Bird Count. Compilers: Kayo Roy (Ont.) and Willie D'Anna (NY).

1993

Jan. 2: Saturday. Audubon Chestnut Ridge Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Paul Lazarus (633-4185).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer: Jane Heyer, 296 Westchester Blvd., Kenmore, NY 14217 Tel. (875-3318).

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$0.50 per copy.

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BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Buffalo Museum of Science

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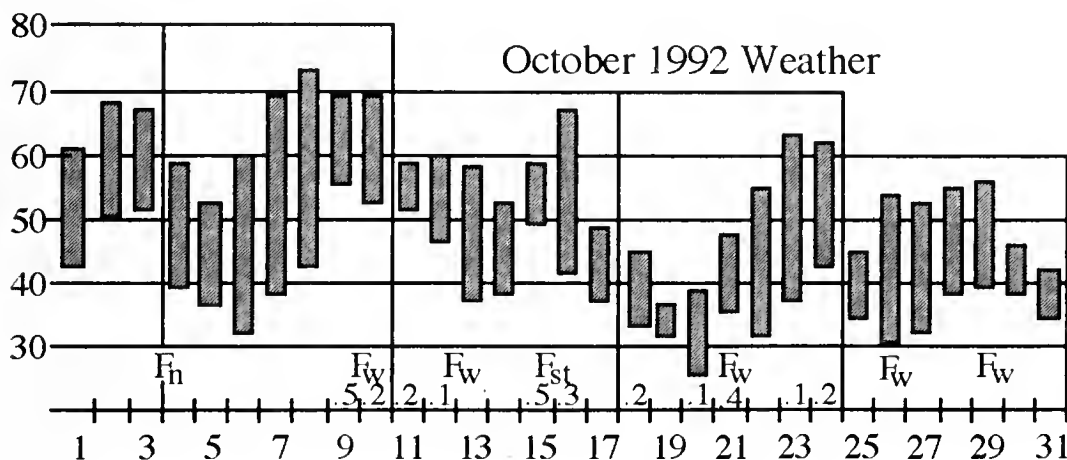
Temperatures in October continued a four month pattern of below normal readings. This month averaged 47.9° F, 3.6° below normal. Although the trend was generally down, as you should expect, the period from the 7th to the 10th was warmer than usual, the 73° recorded on the 8th 8° above normal for that date; this was, however, preceded by the first frost near Buffalo on the 6th. (Areas away from lake influence had recorded frosts as early as September 24.) The month low of 25° on the 20th was 2°

above the record low for that date.

Precipitation for the month totaled 2.8 inches, just .1 inch below average. There was even a .6 inch snowfall recorded on the 20th, a Buffalo record for that date. Parts of the Southern Tier had up to 3 inches on that same day. The normal snowfall total for October is only .3 inches.

Winds with northerly components were recorded on seven days: October 5, 6, 12, 14, 19, 22, and 25. Gusts of 45 to 50 mph were recorded on the 12th, 13th, and 16th. There were some reports of tree damage on these days.

(In the following remarks comparisons that are not other-



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through together with the direction from which they came or st for stationary, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 3rd was a Saturday, the 4th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

wise designated are with the previous six Octobers.)

For the second year in a row there were late October and therefore rather early Red-throated Loons, this species reported in only one of the previous five Octobers. The maximum count of Common Loons was 71 on the 25th, less than half the average maximum of 155. The 19 Horned Grebes on the Count (October 11) were also well down from October highs averaging 65. The overall loons and grebes Count total of 95 was lowest since 60 were recorded in 1984 and well below the decade average 201.

Total heron Count numbers (114) were slightly below the 134 decade average and well below the maximum count of 206 just two years ago.

Tundra Swans were reported on October 25th after their absence in October last year. For the second year in a row a good Lake Ontario Brant flight was noted: 1030 on the 25th off Somerset. The overall waterfowl Count total was near the decade average, but down 37% from last year.

Hawk numbers on the Count were well down: 443 this year compared with the decade average of 533 and last year's 787 decade high. Here are the genus numbers this year with decade average and maximum following: accipiters 28, 42, 115; buteos 152, 212, 334; and falcons 97, 116, 152.

Game bird Count totals continue good with Wild Turkeys continuing to supply the bulk of the numbers and Ring-necked Pheasants an increasingly uncommon species. Marsh bird numbers on the Count were depressed by the decade low coot count this year.

Shorebird Count numbers (781) were worse even than last year's decade low and are only 70% on the decade average. This fall we have missed Willet, Whimbrel, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and so far all the phalaropes. Purple Sandpiper has yet to report in.

This was one of the least interesting Octobers for gulls in recent years, one Little Gull on the 29th the only addition to our four common species. Recent Octobers have produced Sabine's Gull (5 of 6 years), Franklin's Gull (3 of 6 years), and Common Black-headed Gulls (1 of 6 years). Overall gull and tern numbers on the Count were at a decade minimum and stood at 56% of the decade average.

For the first time in at least seven years a Snowy Owl appeared this month on the 25th. The 35 owls represented a decade Count high.

The woodpecker Count total was at a decade minimum 315. No Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported all month, a feat only recently duplicated in 1989. While flycatcher Count totals were near average, the 8 swallows were a decade minimum, strikingly below the decade average of 277. That average was influenced most by high counts in the late 1980s including 991 in 1986. The swallow Count average for the 1990s is a mere 12, a possible reason for concern.

As is apparent to any hiker or hunter the number of jays and crows is high, the Count confirming this informal evidence. Two Common Ravens were reported and confirmed on the 8th; several other reports including one on the Count were not documented and were therefore lost.

Tits — chickadee, titmouse, nuthatches, creeper, wrens, kinglets and gnatcatcher — were at a decade Count low. But thrushes rebounded from last year's decade low to slightly above average. The 46 mimic thrushes, while not at minimum, were 20% below average. Vireo counts are so small that they offer no useful comparison, the four seen this year below average and not encouraging.

The total number of warblers on the Count (458) was minimum for the decade, 55% of decade average and 32% of the decade high 1456 established just two years ago. The following table shows October last record dates for warblers that usually depart in this month or in early November. For comparison, the DG column gives Date Guide departure dates and the 86-91 column the latest dates for each year in that period.

<u>S P E C I E S</u>	<u>D G</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>86 - 91</u>	<u>S P E C I E S</u>	<u>D G</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>86 - 91</u>
Tennessee Warbler	22	1	2,12,16,-,14,11	Bay-breasted Warbler	21	—	12,12,-,8,-,13
Orange-crowned Warbler	N 6	3	17,12,12,18,14,13	Blackpoll Warbler	21	11	-,12,5,8,-,13
Nashville Warbler	21	28	19,12,9,14,14,15	Blk-and-wh Warbler		—	-,12,-,-,14,13
				28			
Northern Parula	17	—	5,12,-,7,-,-	American Redstart	27	11	-,12,-,8,14,13
Chestnut-sided Warbler	17	11	12,12,16,8,25,13	Ovenbird	15	11	12,12,16,14,-,11
Magnolia Warbler	24	2	12,12,16,21,14,15	Northern Waterthrush	18	—	-,,-,-,-,-
Cape May Warbler	20	—	12,12,8,-,14,13	Connecticut Warbler	12	11	-,,-,9,8,-,-
Black-thr Blue Warbler	24	11	12,12,16,17,14,13	Mourning Warbler	1	11	-,,-,-,-,-
Black-thr Green Warbler	N 2	11	12,12,16,14,16,13	Hooded Warbler		—	5,3,-,-,-,-
				3			
Blackburnian Warbler	14	11	-,12,-,8,-,-	Wilson's Warbler	16	—	12,12,-,8,14,5
Pine Warbler,	14	—	5,12,30,-,14,13	Canada Warbler		—	12,-,-,-,-,-
				12			
Palm Warbler	N 13	11	18,12,16,18,14,13				

The Count total for tanagers, grosbeaks, and buntings remained below average, having fallen quite steadily through the decade. Sparrows were also down to only 65% of average but still not at decade minimum, but blackbirds were at decade minimum, only 41% of average. Finches, while also below average seem at least to be holding their own, staying well above the decade minimum set at the beginning of the decade.

Exceptional Records. A **Glossy Ibis** was found on the 10th by Evans and Palmer near Fillmore. This species has been reported in half of the past six years, but it remains an exceptional record. Sundell and others observed a **Ross's Goose** at Stillson's Pond in the Town of Cold Spring. (Note: I apologize to those who prefer to spell Ross's differently, but I find that third 's' not only appealing from the point of view of odd spelling but also representing the way the name is pronounced.) The Hulls found a **crane** in Wyoming County on the Count. The **Mourning Warbler** Schweigert found in Machias on the Count was the first ever, but even this late record was beaten by the immature bird banded by Brooks on the 18th. Last but far from least are two remarkable sparrows. The **Lark Sparrow** found by Rader at Bond's Lake was a Count first. Listed by Beardslee and Mitchell as an "occasional very rare visitor," they cite only a half dozen records for this lovely western sparrow including one Monroe County nesting record (from Eaton). None of those were fall records, but Bull notes it as a "rare but regular fall coastal migrant," also recording that it is "very rare in the interior." Farver located in the Town of Brockton a **LeConte's Sparrow** on the 8th, just two days earlier than last year's only recent record. Arguably as rare as the preceding species, it is listed by Beardslee and Mitchell as a "casual very rare transient visitor," supported by only three sight records. Bull suggests that we should be getting more records of this species, pointing out that it breeds "locally to southeastern Ontario — north of Toronto," and adding that it should pass through our region at least in fall.

Briefly Noted. I am at once very pleased with my birding colleagues of this region for their reporting and providing an unusual number of verifications this month, but at the same time saddened by the fact that we lost several species through failure to submit verifications. Perhaps the best evidence for this is the fact that Tree Sparrow was not included in the Count listing, even though 16 were recorded in several sections. I am reasonably certain that failure to verify this species was inadvertent and is partially justified by the fact that October 11 is the last date requiring such a report, but we are still left with a hole in our records. Those who come after us will not look to our excuses and will be misled by such omissions. — G. Rising

Literature cited:

Andrle, Robert F., et al., eds. *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York & Adjacent Ontario*. Sixth Edition. Buffalo, Buffalo

Ornithological Society, 1991.

Bull, John. *Birds of New York State*. Garden City, New York, Doubleday/Natural History Press, 1974.

NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Red-throated Loon	31F	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna, Broderick(BOS)
"	31F	1	FourMile Creek SP	Ewald
Common Loon	25	71	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna, Cooper
Pied-billed Grebe	29	49	Iroq. NWR & vicinity	Rew, Horbett
D.-crest. Cormorant	2,24	110,31	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Watson
"	3	2	Iroquois NWR	"
"	19	45	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
Great Egret	15,16L	1	Carlton Station	Listman
* <u>Glossy Ibis</u>	10	1	Hume Twp.	Palmer, Evans
Tundra Swan	25F	7	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
<u>Mute Swan</u>	31	1	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Brock (BOS)

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Mute Swan	3F	1	Yates Twp.	"
"	9	2	Westfield Twp.	Sundell, Black
*Ross' Goose (possible escape)	7	1	Randolph Twp.	Sundell, Wellman
Brant	19F,30	1,355	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
"	24	25	Four Mile Creek SP	Ewald
"	25	1030	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna, Cooper
"	31	5	Yates Twp.	D'Anna (BOS)
Green-winged Teal	17	19	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, Ewald
Northern Pintail	25	76	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	29	155	Iroq. NWR & vicinity	Rew, Horbett
Northern Shoveler	18	28	Iroq. NWR & vicinity	Roberson (BOS)
Gadwall	3,25	30,46	Iroquois NWR	Watson
American Wigeon	3	178	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Canvasback	18	1	Iroquois NWR	Roberson (BOS)
Redhead	3,25 (poss. releases)	10,5	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	15,29	23,64	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
"	31	1	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
Ring-necked Duck	1F	5	Lewiston Reservoir	D'Anna
"	3	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	13	125	Lewiston Twp.	Roberson
"	25	78	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	29	105	Iroq. NWR & vicinity	Rew, Horbett
"	31	10	Shadigee	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
Greater Scaup	1	7	Lewiston Reservoir	D'Anna
"	4	85	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	18-28	150-1700	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
Oldsquaw	24F	8	Ft. Niagara SP	Ewald
Black Scoter	4F	4	Westfield Twp.	Sundell
"	31	18	Shadigee	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
Surf Scoter	12F	12	Yates Twp.	D'Anna
"	17	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	24	5	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Watson
White-winged Scoter	12	44	Yates Twp.	D'Anna
Common Goldeneye	17F	1	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	25	13	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna, Cooper
Bufflehead	15F	1	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
"	19	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Hooded Merganser	25	26	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Common Merganser	6	18	Allegheny Reservoir	Watson
Ruddy Duck	14	2	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Roberson
"	15,29	10,19	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
"	29	2	Iroquois NWR	Rew, Horbett
Turkey Vulture	22L	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Osprey	29L	1	Tonawanda WMA	Rew, Horbett
Bald Eagle	3-29	2 imm+2 ad	Iroq. NWR & vicinity	many observers
"	10	1 ad.	Allegheny reservoir	Watson
"	29	1 imm.	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
Sharp-sh. Hawk	13	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess
"	17	1	Sheridan Twp.	R & C Budniewski
Sharp-sh. Hawk	18	1	Royalton Twp.	Roberson, Cooper
Cooper's Hawk	25	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Rough-legged Hawk	31F	1	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna (BOS)

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
<u>Merlin</u>	1	1	Rock Pt. PP	Andrle, Gregory
Common Moorhen	25	5	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	29L	1	Tonawanda WMA	Rew, Horbett
American Coot	3,25	130,62	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Black-bellied Plover	3	2	Clarence Twp.	Watson
"	25,31	7,6	Yates Twp.	D'Anna et al
Lesser Golden Plover	25,31	4,2	Yates Twp.	D'Anna et al
Greater Yellowlegs	25	2	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Cooper
Lesser Yellowlegs	17	1	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, Ewald
Red Knot	1L	1	Erie Beach, Ont.	Andrle, Gregory
Sanderling	17	14	Athol Springs	Andrle
White-r. Sandpiper	25,31	3	Yates Twp.	D'Anna et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	17	2	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, Ewald
Dunlin	3	1	Somerset Twp.	Potter, D'Anna
"	12	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	12	1	Yates Twp.	Roberson et al
"	25,31	6,1	Yates Twp.	D'Anna et al
Dowitcher species	12	1	Yates Twp.	Roberson, D'Anna et al
Little Gull	29	1	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
Great Black-b. Gull	15,20	1	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
Snowy Owl	25F,27	1	Attica Twp.	R & M Daniel
Chimney Swift	2L	60	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo.	Watson
E. Wood-Pewee	7, 21,22L	1,1,1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	9	1	Buffalo	Schaffner
Eastern Phoebe	17	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	17	2	Sheridan Twp.	R & C Budniewski
Horned Lark				
<u>E. a. alpestra</u>	3F,31	1,50	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, et al
Barn Swallow	13L	1	Randolph Twp.	Holmes
<u>Common Raven</u>	8	2	Amity Lake	V & R Pitzrick
Tufted Titmouse	1-31	2	Eden Twp.(f)	Andrle
"	25	2	Niagara Falls(f)	Roberson
Carolina Wren	3	1	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	29,30	1	Niagara Falls	Roberson
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4	1	Tonawanda Twp.	Hess
Hermit Thrush	1	1	Lewiston Twp.	D'Anna
"	1	3	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
Wood Thrush	6L	1	Ellicott Twp.	Sundell, Robinson
Gray Catbird	29	1	East Aurora	Holmes
American Pipet	17	160	Porter Twp.	D'Anna, Ewald
Cedar Waxwing	29	200	Iroquois NWR	Rew, Horbett
Northern Shrike	29F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Rew, Horbett
Philadelphia Shrike	1L	1	Goat Island	D'Anna
Tennessee Warbler	1L	1	Goat Island	D'Anna
Orange-cr. Warbler	3L	2	Lewiston Twp.	Potter, D'Anna
Nashville Warbler	25	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	28L	1	Jamestown	Sundell
Magnolia Warbler	2L	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Bl.-thr. Bl. Warbler	1	1	Goat Island	D'Anna
Palm Warbler	3	1	Lewiston Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
American Redstart	4	1	Goat Island	D'Anna
Mourning Warbler	18L	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Yellowthroat	17	1	Four Mile Creek Sp	D'Anna, Ewald
Rose-br. Grosbeak	13L	1	Lewiston Twp	Roberson
Amer. Tree Sparrow	25F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	25F	1	Yates Twp.	D'Anna, Cooper
Chipping Sparrow	29	1	East Aurora	Holmes
* <u>Le Conte's Sparrow</u>	8	1	Brocton	Farver
Fox Sparrow	20	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	27	2	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	27	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	2	Lewiston Twp.	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
"	20	2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	20L	1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
White-cr. Sparrow	1F	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Potter
"	6	1	Allegheny SP	Watson
"	6	1	Eden Twp.	Andrle
Dark-eyed Junco	17	2	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna
Lapland Longspur	12F	5	Somerset Twp.	D'Anna, Broderick
"	25,31	15+	Yates Twp.	D'Anna et al
Snow Bunting	25F	31	Clarence Twp.	Watson
"	31	20	Yates Twp.	Potter (BOS)
Rusty Blackbird	7F	1	Allegheny SP	Watson
"	7F	10	East Aurora	Holmes
Purple Finch	25	2	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
"	26	6	Sheridan Twp.	Budniewski
"	28	5	East Aurora	Holmes
Red Crossbill	<u>25</u>	14	W. Almond Twp.	Brooks

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded . . . (incl. Fall Count)	260
Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue	4
Total for year.	264

Statisticians' Note

Effective as the 1993 breeding season and thereafter, reports of Common Raven at previously documented breeding areas will not require verification write-ups.

Northern Goshawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and White-throated Sparrow are the only other species not requiring write-ups when reported from previously documented breeding localities in accordance with the rules set forth in the *B. O. S. Verification Date Guide - 1991*.

Robert F. Andrle

Frances M. Rew

Statisticians

Report of the 57th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 11, 1992

Compiler: Chuck Rosenberg

Weather: This was a day of mixed weather. Temperature was near average for October at Buffalo, ranging from 51° to 59° F, but this followed a four day period when temperatures reached 70° each day. Misty rain fell until about 8:30 a.m. when the sky cleared and there was even about an hour of sunshine during the generally overcast day. In the evening the weather disintegrated and rain (and briefly hail) began to fall again at 8 p.m. Winds were generally from the west and southwest averaging 11 mph. with gusts to 29 mph. The most recent front had passed through the region from the west on the night of October 9-10.

Compilation: The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, * first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

Loons - Ducks

Common Loon	3	[3,4]	Blue-winged Teal	40	
Pied-billed Grebe	73		Northern Shoveler	4	[10,13]
Horned Grebe	19		Gadwall	56	
Double-crested Cormorant	219		American Wigeon	1031	
American Bittern	1	[27]	Canvasback	14	F [2,5]
Great Blue Heron	104		Redhead	83	F
Great Egret	1	[5]	Ring-necked Duck	79	[3,5]
Green-backed Heron	3	L [11,27,28]	Greater Scaup	3805	
Black-crowned Night Heron	5		Lesser Scaup	1941	
Mute Swan	1	[8]	unspecified scaup	2000	
Snow Goose	4	[3,8,20]	White-winged Scoter	248	[4,5,7]
Canada Goose	8554		unspecified scoters	15	
Wood Duck	438		Hooded Merganser	1	[16]
Green-winged Teal	42		Common Merganser	30	
American Black Duck	109		Red-breasted Merganser	10	
Mallard	2588		Ruddy Duck	2	F [5]
Northern Pintail	17		unspecified waterfowl	143	

Vultures - Coots

Turkey Vulture	103		Merlin	1	[5]
Osprey	5		unspecified hawks	2	
Bald Eagle	2	[24]	Ring-necked Pheasant	18	
Northern Harrier	54		Ruffed Grouse	49	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18		Wild Turkey	196	
Cooper's Hawk	10		Common Moorhen	2	[2]
Red-shouldered Hawk	7		American Coot	192	
Red-tailed Hawk	145		unspecified crane	1	[13]
American Kestrel	96				

Plovers - Terns

Black-bellied Plover	3	[3,7]	Semi-palmated Sandpiper	1	L [3]
Lesser Golden-Plover	5	[5]	Least Sandpiper	2	L [2]
Semipalmated Plover	3	[2]	Pectoral Sandpiper	33	[2]
Killdeer	640		Dunlin	16	[7]
Greater Yellowlegs	7	[2,3,24]	Short-billed Dowitcher	1	[2]
Lesser Yellowlegs	12	[2]	unspecified dowitcher	1	
Solitary Sandpiper	2	[2,16]	Common Snipe	29	
Spotted Sandpiper	3	L [12,16]	American Woodcock	5	
Hudsonian Godwit	3	[2,4]	unspecified shorebirds	1	
Sanderling	14	[6,7]			
Bonaparte's Gull	757		Great Black-backed Gull	146	
Ring-billed Gull	9988		unspecified gulls	30	
Herring Gull	686		Common Tern	136	[2,3,8]

Doves – Swallows

Rock Dove	1995		Downy Woodpecker	162		
Mourning Dove	2047		Hairy Woodpecker	40		
Eastern Screech-Owl	6	[3,20,28]	Northern Flicker	85		
Great Horned Owl	26		Pileated Woodpecker	15		
Barred Owl	3	[19,20,28]	Eastern Phoebe	42		
Belted Kingfisher	57		Horned Lark	87		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	11	[3,13,19]	Tree Swallow	8	L	[4,10,27]
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	[3]				

Jays – Starlings

Blue Jay	1887		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	137		
American Crow	3446		Eastern Bluebird	331		
Black-capped Chickadee	1202		Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	L	[27]
Tufted Titmouse	36		Swainson's Thrush	4	L	[11]
Red-breasted Nuthatch	73		Hermit Thrush	37		
White-breasted Nuthatch	151		American Robin	4175		
Brown Creeper	35		Gray Catbird	32		
Carolina Wren	24		Northern Mockingbird	13		[1,2,3]
House Wren	5	L	Brown Thrasher	1	L	[20]
Winter Wren	8		American Pipit	246		
Marsh Wren	1	[5]	Cedar Waxwing	1766		
Golden-crowned Kinglet	476		European Starling	26530		

Vireos – Warblers

Solitary Vireo	4	L	[14,18,24]	Palm Warbler	2	L	[23,24]
Nashville Warbler	3		[3,18,23]	Blackpoll Warbler	3	L	[3,28]
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	L	[19]	American Redstart	1	L	[4]
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	L	[11]	Ovenbird	1	L	[11]
Yellow-rumped Warbler	438			Connecticut Warbler	1		[28]
Black-throated Green Warbler	4	L	[7,11,18]	Mourning Warbler	1	L	[18]
Blackburnian Warbler	1	L	[28]	Common Yellowthroat	1		[23]

Cardinals – House Sparrows

Scarlet Tanager	6	L	[22]	White-crowned Sparrow	132		
Northern Cardinal	248			unspecified sparrows	25		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1		[28]	Dark-eyed Junco	397		
Rufous-sided Towhee	21			Red-winged Blackbird	6892		
Chipping Sparrow	297			Eastern Meadowlark	89		
Field Sparrow	94			Rusty Blackbird	563		
Vesper Sparrow	12			Common Grackle	4711		
Lark Sparrow	1	*	[3]	Brown-headed Cowbird	544		
Savannah Sparrow	31	L		Purple Finch	48		
Fox Sparrow	2		[3,9]	House Finch	1474		
Song Sparrow	1002			Pine Siskin	67		
Lincoln's Sparrow	10			American Goldfinch	1069		
Swamp Sparrow	178			House Sparrow	2115		
White-throated Sparrow	779						

Summary Information –

Total Species Observed – **147**
Total Individual Birds Observed -- **101,581**

Comparisons – As compared with October Bird Counts dating back to 1935 (no count was recorded in 1951) and with counts for the decade 1983-1992, the following results are highlighted.

Overall – Species observed 147, low since 137 in 1985 but still above count average of 140; decade average 156. Total individuals 101,581, low since 1960 but still above count average because of small counts in early years; down 29% from decade average.

Loons – Ducks – Common Loon 3, low since 1982 and well below count average 18 and decade average 57. Double-crested Cormorant 219, down from last year's count max 303, but still second high overall. Great Blue Heron 104, low since 1986; decade average 120. American Black Duck 109, low since 91 in 1987; decade average 161. Northern Shoveler 4, down from last year's decade max 28; decade average 10. American Wigeon 420, decade max but many higher counts up to 1974, count max 1955 in 1957; decade average 420. Canvasback 14, continues well down from decade max 320 in 1985; decade average 37. Hooded Merganser 1, low since 1973; decade average 24. Red-breasted Merganser 10, low since 4 in 1982; decade average 84. Ruddy Duck 2, low since none in 1967; decade average 52. Overall waterfowl count above decade average but down 38% from decade high in 1990.

Raptors – Rails – Turkey Vulture 103, near decade average but will down from 186 count high in 1990. Red-tailed Hawk 145, near decade minimum 138 in 1984 and 1986; decade average 205. Ring-necked Pheasant 18, second low to count min 12 in 1989; decade average 36. Wild Turkey 196, second high to last year's 204; decade average 116. American Coot 192, low since 159 in 1978; decade average 447. **Unspecified crane** 1, only previous crane report 2 Sandhill Cranes in 1986.

Plovers – Terns – Black-bellied Plover 3, low since 1 in 1987; decade average 19. Lesser Golden Plover 5, low since none in 1987; decade average 21. Killdeer 640, low since 594 in 1980, decade average 784. Greater Yellowlegs 7, low since 7 in 1962, 5 in 1955, decade average 30. **Hudsonian Godwit** 3, last reported 1 in 1983, only recorded 4 times. **Short-billed Dowitcher** 1 and **unspecified dowitcher** 1, Short-billed Dowitcher last reported 16 in 1974, no dowitchers at all since 3 Long-billed Dowitchers in 1983; only 7 dowitcher reports in count history. Common Snipe 29, well up from 2 in 1990 and 3 last year, but only at decade median; the decade average skewed by the remarkable 702 in 1984. Bonaparte's Gull 757, second to decade low of 700 last year, decade average 3771. Ring-billed Gull 9988, low since 5060 in 1982; decade average 14508. Herring Gull 686, second to decade low 431; decade average 2244.

Doves – Swallows – Rock Dove 1995, low since 1959 in 1980; decade average 3271. Great Horned Owl 26, count max, second high 19 in 1985; decade average 16. Barred Owl 3, tied for fourth; count high 6 in 1975. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2, low since 2 in 1984, surprising after high spring and summer counts. Downy Woodpecker 162, low since 123 in 1980; decade average 231. Northern Flicker 85, low since 62 in 1963; decade average 143. Tree Swallow 8, second to decade low 6 in 1984; decade average 273.

Jays – Starlings – Black-capped Chickadee 1202, low since 954 in 1980; decade average 1555. Tufted Titmouse 36, count max, last year's 35 second; decade average 21. White-breasted Nuthatch 146, second decade low to last year's 146, decade average 237. Brown Creeper 35, low since 27 in 1982; decade average 59. Carolina Wren 24, count max, second high was last year's 17; decade average 7. Winter Wren 8, only one more than decade lows of 7 in 1985 and 1988; decade average 25. Kinglets down 41% from decade average, 68% from last year. Eastern Bluebird 331, second count max to 389 in 1937. Note that the effect of this year's difficult season will not be felt until next year; in 1938 there were only 60 bluebirds. Swainson's Thrush 4, tied with 1988 for second decade low to none in 1985; decade average 9. Mockingbird 13, low since 5 in 1982; decade average 22. European Starling 26530, low since 20407 in 1981; decade average 36584.

Vireos – Warblers – Magnolia Warbler unreported for the first time since 1977; decade average 5. Yellow-rumped Warbler 438, low since 145 in 1959; decade average 797. **Mourning Warbler** 1, first count record. Common Yellowthroat 1, tied for decade low with 1988, last unreported in 1967.

Cardinals – House Sparrows – Scarlet Tanager 6, third high since 13 in 1970, 9 in 1969; only other report in this decade one in 1983. No American Tree Sparrows were reported for the first time in this decade, an artifact of the failure to document 20 individuals! **Lark Sparrow** 1, first count record. Fox Sparrow 2, tied with 1989 for decade low; decade average 10. Lincoln's Sparrow 10, tied for fourth high count to 15 in 1973; decade average 4. Swamp Sparrow 178, second to decade high 185 in 1989; decade average 92. Dark-eyed Junco 397, low since 346 in 1956; decade average 1263. Red-winged Blackbird 6892, low since

5693 in 1955; decade average 17248. Brown-headed Cowbird 544, low since 270 in 1948; decade average 2173. Purple Finch 48, second to decade low 41 in 1984; decade average 96. House Sparrow 2115, low since 1985 in 1957; decade average 3368.

Sections and Observers: Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: **David Cooper**, Herbert Shulman, Maarcel Widmann
2. Thorold, ON: Dick Byron, **Dick Collins**, Mike Galas, Gerry Rising
3. Wilson, NY: Bill Broderick, **Willie D'Anna**, Brett Ewald, Ralph Ewald, Harriette Klabunde, Walter Klabunde, Jim Moreland, Betsy Potter, Karen Rader
4. Middleport, NY: **William Watson**
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, **Dick Christensen**, Jocelyn Jones, Morgan Jones, Bill Townsend
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Gary Novosel**
7. Lowbanks, ON: BobAndrle, **Joe Thill**, John Thill
8. Fort Erie, ON: Alice McKale, **Ellen Schopp**, Mike Zebehazy
9. Grand Island, NY: **Karen Renning**
10. Akron, NY: Ed Crohn, Tom Insalaco, **Donald Roberson**
11. Buffalo, NY: Bruce Johnson, **Chuck Rosenberg**
12. Lancaster, NY: Ann Bauer, Dorothy Danner, Raymond Frantz, **Tom Harper**, Linda Holmes, Joseph Lesser, Cy Wolfling
13. Batavia, NY: Jane Gerace, Tad Gerace, David Gramey, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, George Mahaney, Marsi Pixley, **Don Thurau**
14. Hamburg, NY: Ken Brandes, **Marian Dornhaffer**, Doug Happ, Adelaide Hunley, Bob Leonard, Lucille Leonard, Bob Mauser, Evelyn Mauser, Sandy Radigan, Sue Saunders, Mary Saville, Audrey Segebarth
15. Java, NY: **William Bogacki**, Olga Rosche
16. Angola, NY: Lois Buck, **Fran Rew**
17. Cattaraugus, NY: Maxine Barber, **Wavel Barber**, Ed Berst, Carolyn Frank, Mary Giles, Audrey Horbett, Jackie Isgro, Joseph Isgro, Victoria Onorato
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Bert Schweigert
19. Fillmore, NY: Ron Andrews, Roy Bielewicz, Sandy Bielewicz, Marge Bradford, Faye Clancy, Alice Evans, Jody Hildreth, Lyle Hotchkiss, Margaret Kaufman, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lang, Dora Lilly, Howard Lilly, James Mullen, Larry Mullen, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Nicholson, **Katherine Palmer**, Jean Perry, Elaine Smith, Emmette Smith, Marion Smith, William Smith, Mark Warren, Jean Wilson, Larry Wilson, Richard Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Williams
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Sylvia Clarke, Paul Farver, Jeanine Flory, Joanne Goetz, Joe Gula, Sr., Greg Harper, Don Klaybor, Terry Mahoney, Marty Sanden, **Kathleen Souter**, Kathy Stoll, Doris Welch, Tom Welch
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Virginia Anderson, Dan Cordosi, Julie Heilman, Barbara Henry, Ranjit Laha, Carol Roby, **Bob Sundell**.
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Scott Allen, Shawn Allen, Dan Cordosi, Ranjit Laha, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Scott Allen, Shawn Allen, Dan Cordosi, Ranjit Laha, Tom Madison, Jeremy Maggio, Steve Maggio, Linda O'Brien, Bruce Robinson, **Bob Sundell**
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Lucille Bordonaro, Cora Moser, Jacob Moser, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy
26. Cuba, NY: **Doris Burton**, Mary Jordan, Ann Scott, Morris Scott
27. Bolivar, NY: Margaret Barnett, **Doris Burton**, George Brown, Leon Brown, Ruth Brown, Sid Cleveland, Doris Hurlburt, Norman Ives, Bob James, Claribel James, Emma Lou King, Don King, Helen Link, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Lillian Simons
28. Alfred, NY: Mallery Adams, Mary Adams, Russ Allen, Dorothy Bayless, Fred Bayless, Warren Bouck, Catherine Boyce, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Judson Browning, **Betsy Brooks**, Doris Burton, Clifford Button, Alan Coats, Andrew Coats, Dale Coats, Evelyn Coats, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Zoe Coombs, Jim Copenheaver, Estelle Cronauer, Cynthia Culley, Paul Culley, Elsie Cushing, Harriet

Deverell, Larry Deverell, Phyllis Dubrieul, Audrey Dunham, George Dunham, Ann Eisenhardt, Bob Eisenhardt, Pete Finlay, Terry Finlay, Lucille Frank, Walt Franklin, Mary Alice Fuller, Peter Gradoni, Millie Hayes, Virginia Hogan, Matthew Hotchkiss, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Elsie Kent, Kathy Kent, Clarence Klingensmith, Margaret Klingensmith, Ellen Lamb, Rachel Lash, Cathy MacDonald, Ken McClure, Marion McClure, Mary Ormsby, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Michael Pitzrick, Raymond Pitzrick, **Vivian Pitzrick**, Ona Reynolds, Lynn Rositzke, Violet Sharrett, Maureen Soule, Conner Stephens, Bruce Taggert, Wilma Taggert, Evelyn Thomas, Bill Thompson, Fran Thompson, Pat Tompkins, Bea Thompson, Suzanne Wood, Fred Wygant, Pat Wygant

Total Number of Observers: 251

Complete compilations by region
may be obtained at a club meeting.

Chuck Rosenberg
470 Old Falls Boulevard
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

**BOS Field Trip
Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge
October 18, 1992**

In spite of near-freezing temperatures and predictions of possible showers, a hardy, warmly-dressed group of (lucky) thirteen met at the Amherst Book Fair, Main and Transit at 8 A.M. under clear skies (we'll explain "lucky" later). After installing and testing our new CB radios in the lead, middle and rear cars of our caravan, we set off for the turf farm at Goodrich and County Roads, Town of Clarence.

The turf farm yielded two Lesser Golden Plover and one Black-bellied Plover (which took considerable study), three Dunlin, many Killdeer, and several Horned Lark. Heading north we found few birds along Cedar Road as it entered the swamps, through what I call the usually productive "Willow Corridor." However, just north of Tonawanda Creek, John Welte spotted a Rusty Blackbird amongst scores of Red-wings. Moving on to Bartel Road in the Tonawanda Wildlife Refuge, on the south side we spotted an Osprey perched over the marsh. Across the road, Wood Marsh was sparse in ducks, not having recovered from the blasting of hunters' guns the week before. However, there were a few Ringnecks, American Wigeon, Coot, Mallards and 27 Pied-billed Grebe in a wide variety of transitional plumages.

Moving rapidly on to the Iroquois Refuge Headquarters, pausing briefly only to check out a couple Red-tailed Hawks, we were somewhat chagrined to find out that our request to unlock the restroom area had not been heeded. This necessitated a rapid advance to wooded areas on Sour Springs Road, with a Kestrel observing the haste from his perch. All this by way of recalling some good-natured jokes and stories (inspired?) by the travail and the probably fortuitous alteration in the planned itinerary which resulted in the highlight of the day later on, which we might have missed if we had gone to the Feeder Road from Headquarters as originally planned. Instead we proceeded to Ringneck Marsh, which contained the most waterfowl for the day, including Canada Geese in a wide variety of sizes, probably including the Richardson's, Lesser, and Atlantic races. Among many Ringnecks, American Wigeon, Mallards, and both species of Teal were one Canvasback, a couple of Redheads and Black Ducks, more Pied-billed Grebe, and a couple Great Blue Herons.

After lunch and a brief swing northward through farmland on Sour Springs and Fletcher Chapel Roads, back down Route 63 (adding only another Kestrel, House Finches, and House Sparrows), we proceeded north from Route 77 on the Feeder Canal Road. A short hike in the woodland yielded only one each Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglet and a few Chickadees. Driving on, as we emerged from the woods, the CB's crackled simultaneously: "Eagle!" We in the first car spotted a large black form perched at quite a distance to the east while others spotted an unmistakable adult closer across the swamp. While our leader studied the distant bird through his 22x scope noted seemingly all-black plumage and a smallish (for an eagle) head, began to lean toward Turkey Vulture. John Welte's 35x showed unmistakable white streaks or blotches and eagle-beak. Meanwhile others found a second adult perched farther along Sutton's Marsh. So we had three Bald Eagles in view from one

spot! (If we'd gotten there two hours earlier per our original plan, we probably would have missed this event) Shortly after, we were enthralled to watch one adult flying with a fish in talons and the other soaring off over our heads. Finally the sub-adult took off in the opposite direction on very eagle-like wings.

We concluded the trip at Cayuga Pool under threatening skies, where a fourth, or more likely one of the same adult eagles, gave us a majestic demonstration of low over-marsh flying, banking and then soaring. A few Northern Pintails and Shovelers, and an unspecified Scaup brought our waterfowl count to 12 species, and total count to 47 species for the day. A lone Sharp-shinned Hawk, spotted just west of the lead car, made 48 for the lead car.

So we indeed were lucky—the rain held off until just as we were breaking up and starting home after an enjoyable trip. My appreciation to David Cooper for helping spot birds, keeping a checklist and operating our lead car radio and to John and Martha Welte and Bill Burch for communicating on the other CB's. The trip again demonstrated the usefulness of these radios.

Don Roberson

LAKE ONTARIO PLAINS OCTOBER 31, 1992

As in the previous two years this autumn trip began at Tops in Wright's Corners at 8:00 and headed eastward to the Towns of Somerset and Yates. There were 21 participants, most of whom stayed until the end at 5:00. The sky was overcast in the morning with winds out of the northeast at 10 to 15 mph. With the wind, the 39 degrees felt much colder. Although the temperature hardly changed, sunnier skies and a lighter southeast wind made the afternoon quite pleasant.

We spent a lot of time scanning the lake on this trip and, as usual, it was time well spent. Our first stop was Barker Town Park where it was quickly evident that there was a good waterfowl migration occurring. There were many Common Loons, White-winged Scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, and a few Horned Grebes, Common Goldeneyes, and Buffleheads. This was typical of most of our lake lookouts this day. The highlight here was an adult Red-throated Loon spotted by Bill Broderick, which still had a light wash of reddish on, the throat.

At Golden Hill State Park a walk on the trail produced very little passerine activity although we had a close look at a perched Great Horned Owl.

Our next stop, along the Niagara-Orleans Countyline Road, occupied us for the next two hours. Two large manured fields, one of corn stubble, and one of short grass held many birds. The species we had here were six Black-bellied Plovers, two Golden Plovers, three White-rumped Sandpipers, one Dunlin, a flock of 20 or so Snow Buntings, and at least two American Pipits. The highlight here, though, had to be the Lapland Longspurs. We heard several in flight (whistled "tew" note and three-noted rattle) with Horned Larks but they always landed beyond the rise in the fields. Finally, we walked into the grassy field, at the edge of the corn stubble. We immediately had much closer views of the birds mentioned above and eventually had excellent looks at several Lapland Longspurs, a life-bird for eight people!

At Shadigee Bill Watson spotted 10 Ring-necked Ducks and the first of 18 Black Scoters, almost all of which were adult males with their bright orange bill-knobs and jet-black plumage. Surpassing the excitement of seeing these good birds, however, was the awesome spectacle of several thousand scaup which flew by us in an enormous flock.

Our last stop, the foot of Yates-Carlton Townline Road, had still a few more thrills for us. As our lead car pulled up to the edge of the cliff, 5 adult Brant could be easily seen at the water's edge only 70 yards away. The CB radios which the club recently purchased (kudos to Bill Burch for that) proved very useful for-alerting the other birders to approach the cliff with caution. The Brant stayed, giving all of us wonderful scope views. Also here, a large raft of scaup contained a single adult male Redhead. To mark the end of an excellent day afield, Bob Brock spotted a splendid adult Mute Swan which flew by right in front of us and

scared the Brant into flight.

The group stayed together on the way back to our meeting place which enabled us to add a Northern Harrier, two more Dunlin, and an adult male Rough-legged Hawk (light-morph), the first of the season for most observers. We wound up with 52 species of birds on the trip, a nice total but it was some special birds and some uncommonly good looks that made this day remarkable.

I often speak and write in glowing terms about the Lake Ontario Plain. Over the years it has become my favorite area to bird. The large fields broken up by woodlots provide an expansive and interesting landscape. The lake provides extensive habitat for water-loving birds but also acts as a barrier to songbird migrants. As a result, in the spring, many songbirds feed and rest in the woodlots on our side of the lake before attempting to cross. In the autumn the birds are tired after crossing from Canada and use the same areas to refuel before continuing south. Although we saw very little songbird activity on this particular trip, these migrants can be numerous and diverse in the woods near the lake. Trying to gain a better understanding of exactly what types and sizes of wooded areas the songbirds prefer, the New York Natural Heritage Program (a joint effort of The Nature Conservancy and the State D.E.C.) has begun a complex study of the Lake Ontario Plain. One of the goals of the study will be to draft a conservation plan for the best remaining songbird habitats and concentration areas along Lake Ontario's New York shoreline. This coming spring the first of two years of field censusing will begin. Volunteer birders will visit selected sample sites once per week during the April to June songbird migration season. If you are an active birder who knows the bird songs, please consider helping on this very worthwhile project. In all likelihood you will learn, first-hand another reason why this is such a wonderful birding area.

Willie D'Anna

BOS MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

Dec. 27: Sunday. Niagara Falls, Ontario-New York Christmas Bird Count. Compilers: Kayo Roy (Ont.) and Willie D'Anna (NY).

1993

Jan. 2: Saturday. Audubon Chestnut Ridge Christmas Bird Count. Compiler: Paul Lazarus (633-4185).

Jan. 3: Sunday. Buffalo Waterfront for Snowy Owls, then Niagara River. Meet at Vermont & Busti at 8:00 AM. Leader: Dave Cooper (284-4118).

- Jan. 17: Sunday. Waterfowl Count for the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs. This is the target date but any date between January 16 and 24, inclusive, is acceptable. For a territory call the compiler.
- Feb. 7: Niagara River. Meet at Vermont & Busti at 8:00 AM, or at 8:15 at the first parking area on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upstream from the Peace Bridge.
- Feb. 21: Sunday. Canadian Owl Trip. Meet at Vermont & Busti at 9:00 AM, or at 9:15 at the first parking area on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upstream from the Peace Bridge. Leaders: Blayne Farnan (1-416-834-7541) & Dick Byron (662-4783).
- Mar. 20: **Saturday** not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara County. Leader: Willie D'Anna (1-731-4348). Starting location and time to be announced latter.
- Apr. 4: Sunday. Daylight Saving Time. Set clocks ahead 1 hour.
BOS April Bird Count.
- Apr. 18: Hawk Migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 AM in the Bob Evans parking lot in Niagara Falls, NY where I-90 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Rt. 62), or go directly to the Beamer Conservation Area 30 mi. into Canada in the QEW, on the escarpment above Grimsby. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).
- Apr. 25: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 7:00 AM at Amherst Book World, 0.1 mi. east of Main & Transit. We will join the GOS at 9:30 at the Braddock Bay shelter. Leaders: Mike Zebehazy (662-6987) and Bob Spahn (GOS).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

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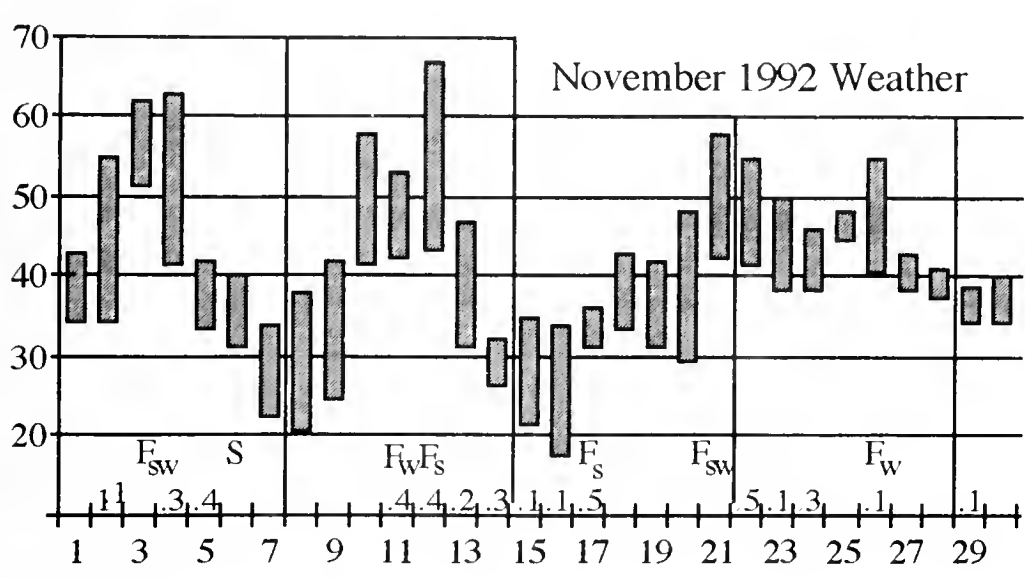
December 1992

Number 12

THE MONTH: November 1992

Of possible political interest is the fact that the only sunny day in this heavily overcast month was Election Day, November 3. The whole month was cloudy, but the last ten days were remarkable in producing only nine minutes of sun!

The temperature mean for the month, 40.2° F, was only 0.1° below average, just enough to make this the sixth month in a row below normal. The minimums on the 7th and 8th tied records for those dates.



On this chart precipitation rounding to 0.1 inch or more is reported above the baseline. Fs represent fronts passing through together with the direction from which they came or S for stationary, the bars temperature ranges, and vertical lines week divisions: thus the 7th was a Saturday, the 8th a Sunday. Airport data from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Buffalo.

The precipitation total of 4.9 inches, on the other hand, was over an inch more than normal. There were, in fact, only eight days that didn't record at least a trace of precipitation.

Of course some of that precipitation fell in the form of snow. Total measured snowfall at the Buffalo Airport measured almost 14 inches, but the total across the region ranged from less than 6 inches in the north to over 30 inches just south of Buffalo. Almost all of this snow fell in the period from the 13th to the 17th in a lake effect storm.

Just what did this weather produce. Consider first in the table on the next page the late migration dates for a number of species, including all "scheduled" to leave in November by the Date Guide (DG column, recall that these dates are meant to be extreme), and comparing this year with the previous seven in order from 1985 to 1991. Interpretation of the results is quite straight forward: November was quite simply a bust for late departures. Notice that last year 12 of these species had November records compared to this year's three! And only one of the birds on this list, the Chipping Sparrow, postdated the Date Guide range. It might be argued that this absence of dates is simply due to poor coverage. Perhaps, but of course poor

coverage is as much a function of weather as poor records. And last year, when there were so many November records, there was an even earlier lake effect snowfall — on the 3rd.

Species	DG	92	85 – 91	Species	DG	92	85 – 91
American Bittern	6	-	-, -, -, -, -	Am Woodcock	Dec 6	-	1,9,-,4,2,-,10
Blue-winged Teal		-	-, -, 5, -, -, 2	Parasitic Jaeger	26	-	-, -, -, -, 6, 29
16							
Turkey Vulture	14	-	-, -, -, 11, -, -	Forster's Tern	8	-	-, -, -, -, -, -
Common Moorhen	5	-	- 29 , -, -, -, -	Black Tern	13	-	-, -, -, -, -, 30
Bl-bellied Plover		-	-, -, -, 4, 3, 12	Eastern Phoebe	7	-	-, -, -, 6, -, 1, 23
28							
L Golden Plover	12	-	-, -, -, -, 3, 11	Tree Swallow	Oct 27	-	23, -, -, -, -, 23
Semipalm Plover	5	-	-, -, -, -, -, -	Marsh Wren	9	-	26, 29, 26 , -, -, -, -
Greater Yellowlegs	Dec 1	3	-, 4, 15, 8, 13, -, 23	American Pipit	25	-	-, -, -, 25, 19, 3, -
Lesser Yellowlegs	8	-	6, -, 15 , -, -, -	Solitary Vireo	7	-	11 , -, -, -, -, -
Ruddy Turnstone		-	-, 5, -, -, -, -	Orange-cr Warbler	6	-	-, -, -, -, -, -
7							
Sanderling	26	-	-, 12, -, -, -, -	Bl-thr Green Warbler	2	-	-, -, -, -, -, -
Wh-rumped Sandpiper		-	-, -, -, -, -, 10	Palm Warbler	13	-	-, -, -, -, -, -
13							
Pectoral Sandpiper	12	-	-, -, -, 3, -, 3, 17	Ovenbird	Oct 15	-	-, -, -, -, -, 11
Common Snipe	25	3	16, -, 15, -, -, -, 9	Chipping Sparrow	16	21	-, 17, -, 14, 25 , 10, -

In the following comments, comparisons noted as “recent” are made with the prior seven years, 1985-1991. Such comparisons are sometimes given as, for example, 3/7, meaning three of these seven years.

No Red-throated Loons were reported, but good flights of Common Loons continued through the month. The 24 Pied-billed Grebes at the north end of Chautauqua Lake on the 29th is a high November count for recent years. Will these birds migrate south, will they continue in this lake, or will they move to Dunkirk Harbor where grebes are usually found through the winter? No Horned Grebes were reported, this species recorded in three recent years. And the early date for Red-necked Grebe, the 21st, is later by a week or two than recent early dates. The late Black-crowned Night Herons on the 1st and 21st make this the fifth of eight recent Novembers for this species.

Do we have a replacement Mute Swan in the Niagara River? There were several unsubstantiated records of this species in the river in addition to the one on the 15th. No Snow Geese this month, reported in six of seven earlier Novembers, but the Brant that stayed the last half of the month in Niagara-on-the-Lake made it all but two recent Novembers. The dabbling duck record is very spotty: Wood Duck absent (4/7), a single Green-winged Teal (3/7), 22 Northern Pintails (4/7), no Blue-winged Teal (2/7), 180 Gadwalls (4/7) double the recent maximum of 93 recorded in 1986, and two good counts, 82 and 125, of American Wigeon. The diving ducks attractive to hunters seem to be holding their own in this region, but missing from the divers was White-winged Scoter (6/7).

The November 1 Osprey was the first recent record for this month; likewise the Peregrine Falcon on the 27th. Only one Rough-legged Hawk and no Northern Harriers may signal what? Decline of rodents, downturn in their own populations, a mixture of those possibilities, or others? As already noted, the shorebird record was poor, but the several individual Red Phalaropes (3/7) that were reported kept spirits up. The return of Purple Sandpipers was ten days later than average for recent years. This year no jaegers (2/7), no Franklin's Gull (5/7), only one Little Gull (6/7), no Common Black-headed Gull (3/7), no kittiwake (6/7), and no Sabine's Gull (3/7). Visitors late in the month and discussed in the next section suddenly made up for this absence. A few white-winged gulls appeared and the number of Lesser Black-backed Gulls continues to increase. On the other hand Gordon Bellerby's maximum fly-by count of Bonaparte's Gulls at Niagara-on-the-Lake was half of last year and a quarter of the year before.

Evidence of the failed nesting attempt of the Barn Owls of Otto is encouraging. These birds quickly settled into the nest box set up late last summer by Chuck Rosenberg, but their breeding attempt was too late for success. Two eggs were produced and one was even pipped by a developing young bird, but the cold was evidently too much for this emerging embryo as it died before it could emerge. We can only hope that these birds will breed here again in spring. A Long-eared Owl was found on the 2nd, 11 days earlier than the early records of recent years.

Most years we seem to have a late warbler. This year's was the American Redstart, found on Goat Island on the 11th. Last year's was an Ovenbird, the year before a Black-throated Blue Warbler, in 1986 a

Blackburnian Warbler. Next year or later this winter what will we have next — while there are still a few of these lovely mites around?

Winter Incursions. The following table shows the status this month of a number of species which move into this region in widely varying numbers over the years. I have simply indicated status in a given year by a + or -, these symbols designating status in very subjective terms. Boldface + indicates a particularly good year.

Species	92	85-91	Species	92	85-91
Rough-legged Hawk	+	+,+,+,+,+,+	Horned Lark	+	-,-,-,-,-,-
Snowy Owl	+	-,+,+,-,-,-,+	Lapland Longspur	-	+,+,-,+,-,-,+
Northern Hawk Owl	-	-,+,-,-,-,-,-	Snow Bunting	+	+,+,+,+,+,+,-
Great Gray Owl	-	-,+,-,-,-,-,-	Pine Grosbeak	-	+,+,-,-,-,-,-
Short-eared Owl	-	+,+,-,-,-,-,-	Purple Finch	+	+,+,+,-,+,-,-
Boreal Owl	-	-,+,-,-,-,-,-	Red Crossbill	-	-,+,-,-,-,-,-
Three-toed Woodpecker	-	-,+,-,-,-,-,-	White-winged Crossbill	-	+,+,-,-,-,-,-
Black-backed Woodpecker	-	-,+,-,-,-,-,-	Common Redpoll	-	+,+,+,-,-,-,-
Bohemian Waxwing	-	+,+,-,-,-,-,-	Pine Siskin	-	+,+,+,+,+,+,+
Northern Shrike	+	+,+,+,+,+,+,+	Evening Grosbeak	-	+,+,+,-,-,-,-

If nothing else, this chart suggests that we are due for incursions of just about everything. Please keep a weather eye out for the rest of the winter. We're in rather sorry straits when we don't even have an Evening Grosbeak record.

Exceptional Records. The Niagara River seemed not to hold much for birders this year until a remarkable series of records brought birders to the canyon by the hundreds. First came the report of a **Mew Gull**, the only earlier records I know of two birds in 1967. Then two species never recorded here before were reported: a **California Gull** and a **Slaty-backed Gull**. (It turned out when things finally settled down that the Slaty-backed Gull had been seen before the others.) The Mew Gull and California Gull are western species whose range is well west of that 100th meridian that separates eastern and western field guides. The California Gull is, of course, the gull famous for coming to the defense of the Mormons in Utah during their locust plague. The Slaty-backed Gull is quite another story. Consider this from the National Geographic Field Guide: "Northern coastal species of Asia. Uncommon summer and rare fall visitor to the Aleutians and western Alaska, rare on north and south coasts. A heavy, four-year gull only seen at sea and along the coasts." Well now. Suddenly the Niagara gorge became THE center of international bird watching. What brought these birds here is anyone's guess, including, I suppose, the possibility of their having come in someone's cage. (During and after World War II it was common to suspect that birds like the Silver Gull that showed up in Rochester in 1947 to be escapes from bombed European zoos.) But in reality these birds are only the latest of the string of newcomers over the past century. We have Glaucous Gull and Great Black-backed Gull, both first seen here in 1895; Franklin's Gull, first seen here in 1937; Little Gull, 1938; Black-headed Gull, 1947; Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1949; and Mew Gull, 1967. We now add two new species to that list. Who knows what will turn up next. Any bets?

Briefly noted. Vivian Pitzrick reports from Amity Lake: "Poor mast crop, but abundant spruce cones. Dogwood fruits abundant but apples spotty. Good box elder fruits but multiflower rose, wild grape, and ash tree fruits scarce or nonexistent." — Gerry Rising

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NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (B.O.S. 1991) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration

(f) - Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Common Loon	13	22	over Athol Springs	Andrle et al
"	21	15	Upper Niagara River	Harper
"	30	31	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
Pied Billed Grebe	29	24	Mayville	Rew
Red-necked Grebe	21F	1	Bertie Twp.	Harper
"	30	1	Mayville	Sundell
D.-crest. Cormorant	6,20,24	3,2,2	Niagara Falls	Bellerby, Andrle, Holmes
Bl-cr. Night-Heron	1	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
"	21	1	Niagara River	Chilton
Tundra Swan	8	6	Niagara-on-Lake	Bellerby
"	8	9	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	11	23	Sheridan Twp.	B & C Budniewski
"	13	45	over Jamestown	Sundell
"	21	35	Mayville	Rew, Sundell
<u>Mute Swan</u>	15	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson
Brant	15-27	1	Niagara-on-Lake	Bellerby et al
Green-winged Teal	30	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Pintail	8	22	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Northern Shoveler	8	5	Oak Orchard NWR	Watson
Gadwall	8	<u>180</u>	Iroquois NWR	Watson
American Wigeon	8	82	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	29	125	Mayville	Rew
Canvasback	6	3000	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	21	250	Mayville	Rew, Buck
Redhead	7	4	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	15	6	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson
"	29	115	Mayville	Rew
Ring-necked Duck	6	<u>203</u>	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	21,30	15,28	Chautauqua Lake	Rew, Sundell
Greater Scaup	1-30	3000	Pt. Breeze (L. Ont.)	Listman
Oldsquaw	7	1	Chippawa, Ont.	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	22	3	Lewiston	Brock (BOS-GOS)
Black Scoter	1	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	D & D Suggs
"	7	4	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	8	1	Somerset Twp.	D D Suggs
"	22,26	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Brock, D'Anna et al
Surf Scoter	1,15	6,3	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	D & D Suggs
"	6	4	Niagara Falls	D'Anna

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Hooded Merganser	1	14	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Hooded Merganser	7	19	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	12,14	15	East Aurora	Holmes
"	14	<u>134</u>	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	29	48	Mayville	Rew
Common Merganser	11	30	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	15	15	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	D & D Suggs
Ruddy Duck	7	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	Harper
"	29,30	32,40	Mayville	Rew, Sundell
Osprey	<u>1L</u>	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Bald Eagle	21	1 ad.	Queenston, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	2	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
Rough-legged Hawk	27	1	Ward Twp.	Brooks
<u>Peregrine Falcon</u>	27	1 imm.	Lewiston Reservoir	D'Anna
American Coot	8	76	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	21,29	1200,800	Mayville	Rew, Buck
Killdeer	20	2	Brockton	Budniewski
Greater Yellowlegs	3L	6	Times Beach, Bflo	Hess
Semipalm. Sandpiper	<u>8L</u>	4	St. Catharines, Ont	Yoerg et al
Purple Sandpiper	22F,24	1	Niagara Falls	Brock, Holmes
Dunlin	1	2	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	D & D Suggs
"	7	55	Rock Point PP	D'Anna, O'Donnell
"	15-29	3	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson, D&D Suggs
Common Snipe	3L	1	N. Harmony Twp.	Thill, Welch
*Red Phalarope	1	1	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	D & D Suggs
"	14-30	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Bellerby et al
"	15	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson
Little Gull	6,7	1,1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, et al
Bonaparte's Gull	6	6070	Niagara-on-Lake	Bellerby
"	30	<u>2500</u> (est)	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
* <u>Mew Gull</u>	25	1	Queenston Reservoir	R & M Plank
Ring-billed Gull	30	10,000 (est)	Chautauqua Lake	Sundell
* <u>California Gull</u>	29	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	R & M Plank et al
(First Record for BOS Area)				
Iceland Gull	15F	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna
"	21	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	27	2	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Chilton
L. Black-b. Gull	<u>7F</u>	1 ad	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	20,29	2,3 ad	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	29,30	2,1 ad	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	Andrle, D'Anna et al
<u>L. Black-b. Gull</u>	15	1 2nd winter	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna, Watson et al
"	27	1 ad	Reservoir SP	D'Anna
"	28	2 ad	N. Falls, Ont. Dump	D'Anna, Plank
* <u>Slaty-backed Gull</u>	24,28,29	1	Niagara Falls	R & M Plank et al
(First Record for BOS Area)				
Glaucous Gull	15F	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	15F	1	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	26	3	Queenston Reservoir	Watson et al
Common Tern	1L	3	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	D & D Suggs
Barn Owl	28	2 ad + 2 eggs	Otto Twp.	Watson, Rosenberg et al
Snowy Owl	21,22,29	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Harper, Brock, Cooper
"	28-30	1	Niagara-on-Lake	Bellerby

<u>Name of Bird</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer</u>
Long-eared Owl	2F	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Cunningham, Farnan
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	2F	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	Cunningham, Farnan
Horned Lark	8	200 (est)	Somerset Twp.	D & D Suggs
N. Rough-w. Swallow	21,22,26,28,29	9,5,2,1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	26	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson et al
Tufted Titmouse	1-30	5 reports	scattered in WNY	
Carolina Wren	1-30	1	Eden Valley	Andrle
"	3-25	1-2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	11	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Winter Wren	1	1	Tifft N.P.	Watson
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	20	1	Alfred Twp.	Brooks
Eastern Bluebird	3,18	3,4	East Aurora	Holmes
"	6,23,28	2,2,1	Amity Lake	Pitzrick
"	7	2	Long Beach, Ont.	D'Anna et al
"	8	3	Sheridan Twp.	Budniewski
Hermit Thrush	7	1	Buckhorn Is. SP	Watson
Gray Catbird	3	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Northern Shrike	1	1	Villein Twp.	Rew, Buck
"	8	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	30	1	Josh. Davis SP	Thill
American Redstart	11F	1	Goat Island	D'Anna
Chipping Sparrow	15	1	Sheridan Twp.	R & C Budniewski
"	16,17-21L	1	Eden Valley(f)	Andrle
Field Sparrow	3	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Swamp Sparrow	18	2	East Aurora	Holmes
White-cr. Sparrow	15	1	East Aurora	Holmes
Snow Bunting	1	15	Bird Is. Pier, Bflo	D & D Suggs
"	3	10	Hanover Twp.	Chilton
"	8	300	Yates Twp.	Watson
"	27	120	Lewiston	Chilton
Eastern Meadowlark	17	1	Sheridan Twp.	Chilton
Rusty Blackbird	8	3	Tonawanda Twp.	Watson
Common Grackle	16	40	Sheridan Twp.	Budniewski
Purple Finch	3	2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	19-30	1-4	Amity Twp.	Pitzrick

Species, subspecies & hybrids previously recorded 264

Species, subspecies & hybrids recorded this issue 4

Total for year. 268

FIRST ATTEMPTED NESTING OF DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS ON THE NIAGARA FRONTIER

by William W. Watson

Between May 8 and May 28, 1992, Double-crested Cormorants were observed as they attempted to nest on a water diversion weir island in the Niagara River off Buckhorn Island State Park, Grand Island, New York. Although the nesting unsuccessfully terminated between May 28 and June 9, this is the first nesting attempt of this species in the Niagara Frontier Region of New York State (Region 1).

Description of Nesting Site

The nesting site is located on a water diversion weir island off Buckhorn Island State Park which is at

the north tip of Grand Island in the Niagara River. This man made island is 3 1/2 miles upstream from Niagara Falls at 78°59' 55" W longitude and 43°03' 30" N latitude.

The island has an elongate axis that runs NNW and SSE with a length of 1060 feet and a width of 100 feet. It is mostly composed of boulder size fill overlain by cobbles and pebbles (smoothed Udorthents according to the *Soil Survey of Erie County, New York*).

Most of the island is covered with grasses with a few shrubs and deciduous trees. The cormorants nested in two cottonwood trees at its NNW end.

History of Breeding, Site and Project

The only other nesting of Double-crested Cormorants in the Buffalo Ornithological Society territory occurred on the north shore of Lake Erie at Mohawk Island, Ontario, Canada, which is located 35 miles due west of Buffalo. On May 18, 1983, A. R. Clark and Arthur Schaffner documented 12 cormorant nests, 8 of which contained eggs. On June 15, 1983, the Canadian Wildlife Service counted a total of 16 nests, 34 eggs and 9 young. Unfortunately by August 3, 1983, the colony was abandoned and it has not been re-established (Clark *et al.* 1983).

According to *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State* the closest colony to the Buckhorn Island site in New York State is located at Little Galloo Island in eastern Lake Ontario (Andrle *et al.* 1988). The third week in June the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation conducted its annual census there, finding 5400 nests on Little Galloo Island in 1992 (Miller 1992).

Slightly more distant than the Little Galloo Island colony is the Wantry Island colony on Oneida Lake. Starting with one nest in 1984 (Claypoole 1988), this colony currently has counts of 40 to 60 active nests (Miller 1992).

The water diversion weir island at Buckhorn Island State Park is presently a thriving Ring-billed Gull colony with these gulls not only nesting on the entire length of the 1060 foot island, but also attempting to nest on the adjacent land. A few breeding Herring Gulls are also present most years. Previously there was a colony of Common Terns; however, the author has not seen any breeding Common Terns on this island since May 1987.

In June 1990 William D'Anna alerted the author to the possibility of Double-crested Cormorants nesting on the water diversion island, and on June 12, 1990, this research project commenced to measure their abundance and monitor any breeding activity of cormorants at this site. Each year from May to October cormorant counts and breeding activities were recorded.

Observations

Observations were made with an 8 inch Celestron telescope (50x) from the water intakes 1 1/4 miles WNW of the island or with a Bushnell Space Master telescope (45x) from Buckhorn Island State Park 1000 feet SSE of the nesting trees (hereafter Buckhorn).

From May 8, 1992 until November 7, 1992, the following observations were made:

May 8, 1992. At 6:00 p.m. three Double-crested Cormorants on three nests were observed from the water intakes. Although the birds appeared to be on nests, it could not be determined if they were low enough on the nests to be incubating. A total of 23 cormorants was counted on the island.

May 9, 1992. From Buckhorn between 8:30 and 8:40 p.m. EST, three cormorants were observed at the first nest, one cormorant at the second nest, while the third nest was vacant. None appeared to be in an incubating position. A total of 181 cormorants was counted on the island. The increase was because the observation time was closer to sunset when more cormorants come to roost.

May 13, 1992. Observing from the water intakes, four or five nests could be seen. On three of the nests there were adults possibly incubating. The nesting tree foliage was starting to obscure both nests and cormorants. The count of cormorants on the island was 34.

May 16, 1992. In the evening from the water intakes 158 cormorants were counted on the island.

May 28, 1992. Between 5:30 and 5:40 p.m. possibly five and definitely four nests were observed at a distance of 1000 feet from Buckhorn. On four of the nests Double-crested Cormorants were very low on the nests with only their heads showing. These cormorants were definitely in incubating position. A total of 39 cormorants was counted on the water diversion island.

June 10, 1992. Observing from Buckhorn between 4:50 and 5:10 p.m., the nesting tree and the nests appeared to be abandoned. Although there were no Double-crested Cormorants on the water diversion island, a total of 74 cormorants was found on two Niagara Mohawk electrical towers 1800 feet and

2000 feet east of the island. During May these towers had been vacant.

One day earlier on July 9, 1992, John Curtis, a senior wildlife technician for the New York State Department of Environmental Science, also noticed that the cormorant had deserted the water diversion island, and visited the nesting site. A total of nine nests was counted. He was able to look into two of the lower nests and found that one was empty and the other contained a broken gull egg (Kandel 1992).

November 7, 1992. The nesting trees had lost enough leaves to make it possible to study the nests from Buckhorn. Between 10:50 and 11:10 a.m. two nesting trees could be seen about 20 feet apart on the east side of the north end of the island. The northern most tree had three well-constructed nests, while the southern tree had four well-constructed nests, one flimsy nest and possibly two remnants of nests. Four Double-crested Cormorants were observed upstream from the colony.

Discussion

There are several possible reasons for the premature abandonment of the colony some time between May 28 and June 9. It certainly is not unusual for first attempted nestings to be unsuccessful. In the attempted nesting of Double-crested Cormorants at Mohawk Island in 1983 Weseloh "felt that such poor success was consistent with a new colony and the number of visits the island had probably received from boaters (and biologists)" (Clark *et al.* 1983). At the water diversion weir island there appear to have been similar conditions.

Through the spring and summer human activity increases on and around the water diversion island. Although the presence of the thriving Ring-billed Gull colony discourages most people from landing on the island, fishermen and pleasure boaters frequent the surrounding waters. The LaSalle Yacht Club is only 6000 feet west of the attempted cormorant nesting site. Any boater taking the shortest route around the north end of Grand Island would pass close to the water diversion weir island. Most of these boaters pass through the narrow channel between the land and the SSE end of this island.

Workers from the New York Power Authority also frequent the area. A barge is sunk in the narrow channel between the land and the water diversion weir island in late November to divert ice over Niagara Falls and prevent an ice build up near the water intakes during the winter months. In the spring, usually about mid April, water is pumped out of the barge and it is removed. This year it was removed on April 10 (Miklitsch 1992). Other workmen painting the north Grand Island bridge used the peninsula next to the water diversion island to unload supplies from boats.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has been studying Common Terns that have small colonies at the base of the electrical towers and have been attempting to reestablish the Common Tern colony at the SSE end of the water diversion island. This year in conjunction with the State University College at Buffalo a monofilament grid was placed at the SSE end of the island on April 14 and 15 to discourage Ring-billed Gulls from nesting. The island was visited May 9 and again on May 23 to remove the monofilament grid. On June 13 a census of Ring-billed Gulls on the island recorded 2232 nests (Calhoun 1992). Since none of these intrusions on the water diversion island occurred between May 28 and June 9, it could be deduced that they were not a direct cause of the abandoning of the Double-crested Cormorant colony.

Over the past three years there has been a pattern of spring cormorant roosting on the water diversion island switching to late summer and fall roosting on the nearby Niagara Mohawk electrical towers. Did the few birds that were nesting simply follow the flock to the towers and abandon their nests? This hypothesis is complicated by the fact that 24 cormorants were counted on the island as late as July 2 in 1990. Why did the cormorants leave their nests and the island so early (between May 28 and June 9) in 1992?

The abundance of young birds in the Ring-billed Gull and Common Tern colonies attracts predators. Although the swift current of the Niagara River thwarts predation by mammals such as raccoons, there is evidence of predation by Great Horned Owls on the Common Tern colonies at the base of the electrical towers (Kandel 1992). Although a Peregrine Falcon that roosted on the electrical towers was not verified until August 16, 1992, it was probably there earlier. Both of these birds would have stressed the breeding cormorant adults.

Four miles downstream from the nesting site is a colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons. This species has been documented taking Common Tern eggs (Kandel 1992).

Lastly, the cormorants that roost at this site are mostly immature and probably represent a young

population of birds that are inexperienced breeders.

The disruption of humans, the urge to change roosting locations, predatory birds and the inexperience of these young birds may have all contributed to the abandonment of the Double-crested Cormorant colony.

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of Double-crested Cormorants in the Buffalo Ornithological Society's territory during the last five years. This trend is demonstrated in the May Counts and October Counts of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

This chart shows nearly identical trends for both the May and October counts. The annual May Counts show an increase from 11 Double-crested Cormorants in 1988 to 453 in 1992. The October Counts show a five year increase from 13 cormorants in 1987 to 303 cormorants 1991.

Yearly maximum counts of Double-crested Cormorants within a two mile radius of the breeding site indicate that their number has more than doubled each of the last three years. A maximum of 149 cormorants was recorded on September 20, 1990. In 1991 the cormorants peaked on September 25 with 386 birds in the study area representing a 259% increase. In 1992 there was a 214% increase when the cormorants reached a maximum on September 1 of 827 birds.

The establishment of the Double-crested Cormorant colony off Buckhorn in Region 1 was not unique. At the same time the Region 1 colony was being established a similar colony was being established in Region 2. "By late May as many as 13 nests in various stages of completion were visible in one tree in Braddock Bay" in the Genesee Region (Region 2) of New York State (Griffith 1992).

The increase in migrating Double-crested Cormorants and the establishment of two new colonies in New York during 1992 indicates that observers on the Niagara Frontier and in much of the rest of New York State should expect to find new cormorant colonies and should be actively monitoring potential nesting sites.

It is also important that the Buckhorn Island site continue to be monitored. The water diversion island not only has suitable nesting habitat but is also surrounded by an increasing cormorant population. It is very likely that cormorants will successfully breed at this site in the near future.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Senior Wildlife Biologist Mark Kandel, Senior Wildlife Technician John Curtis, Senior Wildlife Supervisor Robert Miller (all of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation), Dr. Stuart Calhoun of the Biology Department of the State University College at Buffalo and Frank Miklitsch, Construction Supervisor of the New York Power Authority for providing valuable current information. I would also like to thank Gerald Rising and the many other people who reviewed this report and provided personal communications and encouragement.

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A Research Proposal for ALL B.O.S. Members

Several years ago under the leadership of Fran Rew this society undertook a fine organized research project. Members manned stations along the edge of the Southern Tier weekends for one full spring to record hawk flights. Because the weather was so poor on many of the assigned days, there was some grumbling; but I thought that overall it was a wonderful society activity. It got people out. It had an organized focus and sought to shed light on an interesting phenomenon: whether and if so where there is a north-south dividing that separates where hawks go east over Rochester or west over Grimsby. And it gave us something in common to discuss when we met one another in the field and in particular at meetings.

This year I propose a quite different project, but one that should, I hope, give many of us some of the same values that were the positives of Fran's activity. I propose that each of us take part in a spring mini-census of a small area near our home. Several of these censuses are already underway. Linda Holmes has covered Sinking Ponds in Aurora (all year) for several years. Brett Ewald has done a small area near his home in Ransomville for two years. With much help I have worked the Williamsville Glen for several springs.

It turns out, however, that only Brett's census fits the pattern I propose. What I want you to do is to locate a very small area (1) **within 20 minutes of your home** (2) **that you can census in less than an hour**. You should then try to (3) **census that area two or three times each week through April, May, and early June**. (Each spring is different, but the last several suggest that once a week for the first three weeks in April, twice a week for the next two weeks, three times a week for the next two, and once a week for a last three would be plenty. That is 16 trips. A bare minimum might be a dozen outings, but that or even fewer trips would still provide useful information.) I recommend that you follow the same route on each count and that you try to find a partner to go with you on some days, to alternate with you on others. Following the same route does not mean that you cannot stray to follow up an interesting bird, but it does mean that you should not add into your census birds seen elsewhere on those count days.

Here are some examples of the kinds of areas I mean: Dick Collins could work the edge of the glen behind his house for a quarter mile. The Budniewskis and the Junkins can simply walk the perimeter of their yards. Bill Watson could take part of the Two Mile Creek area. Joe Thill could do a city block in Kenmore. Dick Byron could cover the Mirror Lake part of Delaware Park. (Notice that I didn't suggest that he do all of Delaware Park. That would take so long as to become intimidating.) Some of you might choose simply to work your own and a few neighbors' yards. The key is to keep the task small enough so that you will carry through. Doing this kind of census should not keep you from counting birds in other places.

You should plan to count individual birds, but estimates are quite reasonable, especially for common birds. What is not acceptable is a check mark. Now, especially with the threats against so many species — even ones we see "commonly" in some areas here like Brown Thrasher — those numbers are important!

I will provide each team or individual participating with checklists and a summary chart on which to record data for some migrants. I will then take responsibility for compiling and reporting results.

What is the rationale for this project? I believe that it has several merits. In its best sense it will give us a moving picture of the coming migration across the region instead of just at the few birding hotspots like Tifft. (That doesn't mean that Shirley Landsittel and Bill Bogacki should avoid their own sanctuary. A short route there and another at Times Beach are still appropriate.) It may also give us a better feel for the distribution of migrants. We will never get beyond sampling in our record keeping, but now we record only one or two of many species (Gray-cheeked Thrush and Kentucky Warbler, for example) during migration. Is that an accurate picture? I suspect that it may indeed be accurate, but we will never know until we cast our nets wider. And finally, this kind of count gives us data for comparison if we could repeat the project in five or ten years. Except for the Federal Breeding Bird Censuses we have very little comparative data at this time.

I will be discussing this project at coming B.O.S. meetings, but please start to think now about a mini-census plot that you could and would cover. — Gerry Rising

Habitat Protection and Birds using the New York State Power Authority Lewiston Reservoir

In 1988, a newspaper article told of recreational developments anticipated on the Lewiston Reservoir. Important habitat could be jeopardized by allowing boating on the reservoir where fishing had been previously limited to the shoreline. A committee of BOS members* submitted a request to meet with the Resident Manager of the Lewiston facility (Robert Moses Power Plant) to discuss the new proposal to build a boat launching ramp and access road. We expressed our concerns about possible negative impact on waterfowl using the reservoir by giving fishermen unlimited use of the waters. We submitted a partial compilation of the spring and autumn migrant birds using the reservoir. This tally was included with an articulate letter prepared by Morgan Jones. He also sent an impressive follow-up in September 1989 detailing more data and thanking the manager for his intention to limit the boating season on the impoundment to the time between Memorial Day and Labor Day. This is the time period annually when there is little waterfowl use of the reservoir. We think we gained some benefits for the birds.

Several people** have continued to make censuses, primarily of water fowl on the Lewiston Reservoir. I have collected these observations and other records available from "Noteworthy Records" of past issues of the *Prothonotary*. The material is presented here in a consolidated format for perusal and future applications.

A partial list of other birds which have been seen coincidentally on or about the immediate vicinity of the reservoir included: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Golden Plover, Killdeer, Little Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Yellow Warbler, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Northern Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

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** W. D'Anna, W. Klabunde, D. Roberson, D. Cooper

Note: The column headings for the tables which follow give the date by month, day and year.

LEWISTON RESERVOIR WATERFOWL

	11	12	10	11	1	1	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	5	9	27	11	1	13	19	24	29	30	24	30	30	31	27
	78	78	79	79	80	80	80	80	80	80	82	82	83	83	84
Red-throated Loon															
Common Loon		1											1	1	
Pied-billed Grebe															
Horned Grebe									10				2	3	
Red-necked Grebe															
Eared Grebe															
Double-crested Cormorant															
Tundra Swan															
Canada Goose															
American Black Duck															
Mallard															
Northern Pintail															
Blue-winged Teal															
Northern Shoveler															
Gadwall															
American Wigeon															
Canvasback								50			50			1+	
Redhead															
Ring-necked Duck															
Greater Scaup			15000					2500		5500			5400	500	50
Scaup sp.											2500	5500			
Lesser Scaup													500	3000	H
Oldsquaw															
Black Scoter															
White-winged Scoter															
Common Goldeneye															
Bufflehead															
Hooded Merganser															
Common Merganser															
Red-breasted Merganser															
Ruddy Duck	161	65	56	32	60	15	130	5			5		2		
Unidentified Waterfowl															
American Coot															

H-HUNDREDS

M-MANY

	11	10	10	11	11	8	9	10	10	11	11	3	8	9	9	9	9	10	10
	11	14	19	2	3	3	6	4	19	7	22	14	29	23	25	26	30	11	13
	84	85	85	85	85	86	86	86	86	86	86	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87
Red-throated Loon																			
Common Loon			4	1						13								4	2
Pied-billed Grebe																			
Horned Grebe	1	6	1							1			1					5	5
Red-necked Grebe																			
Eared Grebe																			
Double-crested Cormorant						1	1					1							
Tundra Swan																			
Canada Goose																			
American Black Duck																			
Mallard																			
Northern Pintail																			
Blue-winged Teal																			
Northern Shoveler																			
Gadwall																			
American Wigeon																			
Canvasback			6																
Redhead																			
Ring-necked Duck																			
Greater Scaup	50								M	M							11	200	300
Scaup sp.															10	175			
Lesser Scaup	H	2000	H					40	M	M				120			450	5900	6000
Oldsquaw																			
Black Scoter					1						1								
White-winged Scoter		3						5											
Common Goldeneye																			
Bufflehead																			
Hooded Merganser																			
Common Merganser				4								8							
Red-breasted Merganser		1																	
Ruddy Duck	11	27						3	10	16	3				1			5	
Unidentified Waterfowl																			
American Coot																			

LEWISTON RESERVOIR WATERFOWL

	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	12	1	3	3
	24	28	29	1	7	8	13	14	16	26	3	10	14	22	27	1	17	18
	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	87	88	88	88
Red-throated Loon																		
Common Loon	1	1		1			2	1			2							
Pied-billed Grebe																		
Horned Grebe	6	2		1		2	11	5	7		2		2	1	1			
Red-necked Grebe																		
Eared Grebe																		
Double-crested Cormorant																		
Tundra Swan																		
Canada Goose																		
American Black Duck																		
Mallard																		
Northern Pintail																		
Blue-winged Teal																		
Northern Shoveler																		
Gadwall																		
American Wigeon																		
Canvasback								100	2000			31	31					
Redhead			3					2100										
Ring-necked Duck																		
Greater Scaup			100			1000												
Scaup sp.	2000+	4000			4000			4000	2100	600	120	91	51	40	40			
Lesser Scaup			2000			2000	1500											
Oldsquaw																		
Black Scoter																		
White-winged Scoter																		
Common Goldeneye														4		1	1	
Bufflehead					24													
Hooded Merganser																		
Common Merganser										11		100	56	150	100	8	2	
Red-breasted Merganser									31	4						2		
Ruddy Duck		5		14	13	7	6	7		2	1							
Unidentified Waterfowl																		
American Coot																		

	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	19	20	26	27	29	30	31	1	2	3	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	15
	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88
Red-throated Loon																		
Common Loon								1	1			1			3		4	?
Pied-billed Grebe					2			25										
Horned Grebe			13	3				5	2	1	1	3			2		8	3
Red-necked Grebe																		
Eared Grebe																		
Double-crested Cormorant																		
Tundra Swan																		
Canada Goose																		
American Black Duck																		
Mallard			2					2										
Northern Pintail																		
Blue-winged Teal																		
Northern Shoveler			1															
Gadwall																		
American Wigeon																		
Canvasback			1		3			13		10		6						
Redhead								8		5		4						
Ring-necked Duck																		
Greater Scaup																		
Scaup sp.			90	18	73	47	3	51	28	20	21	5			63	26	136	6
Lesser Scaup																		
Oldsquaw		2		2	3				2	21	8	15			41		11	1
Black Scoter																		
White-winged Scoter			1															
Common Goldeneye	3	4	2		1													
Bufflehead					50+					25		110			3		27	
Hooded Merganser																		
Common Merganser	9		1	2	2													
Red-breasted Merganser	7		103	33	28	71	51	65	28	27	9	30	10	16	35		45	68
Ruddy Duck																		
Unidentified Waterfowl		1		5	12			24		329	16	64	33	16	4	24	38	10
American Coot																		

LEWISTON RESERVOIR WATERFOWL

	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	9	9	9	9	10
	16	17	23	26	30	1	2	3	4	7	11	15	15	8	15	23	29	6
	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88
Red-throated Loon					1						1							
Common Loon	2	3		2	5	8	2			2		2						
Pied-billed Grebe											1		1					
Horned Grebe	1	4	2		2													
Red-necked Grebe																	4	
Eared Grebe																		
Double-crested Cormorant																		
Tundra Swan																		
Canada Goose															34		139	
American Black Duck																		
Mallard					6						1							
Northern Pintail																		
Blue-winged Teal																		
Northern Shoveler																		
Gadwall																		
American Wigeon																		
Canvasback																		
Redhead														12	12	17		
Ring-necked Duck																		
Greater Scaup																		
Scaup sp.	18	23	6	13	16	10	8	2	3			2						
Lesser Scaup														7	12	22	475	2700
Oldsquaw	2	2			13													
Black Scoter																		
White-winged Scoter		1																
Common Goldeneye		1																
Bufflehead		3		5	39													
Hooded Merganser																		
Common Merganser																		
Red-breasted Merganser	58	25	34	82	52	38	5	2	2	4								
Ruddy Duck																		5
Unidentified Waterfowl		3	16	2	2	2	2		1									
American Coot																		

	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	1	1	1	3	3
	12	15	21	28	3	11	18	22	2	9	14	20	27	3	10	18	14	25	
	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	88	89	89	89	89	89	89
Red-throated Loon																			
Common Loon			3		4	4	10	12	2	3	3	1							
Pied-billed Grebe			1																1
Horned Grebe		1	5	2	22	8	64	50		9									1
Red-necked Grebe																			
Eared Grebe																			
Double-crested Cormorant																			
Tundra Swan																			
Canada Goose	100		40	60	85	75													
American Black Duck																			
Mallard																			
Northern Pintail																			
Blue-winged Teal																			
Northern Shoveler																			
Gadwall																			
American Wigeon																			
Canvasback		11	50	2	2	1	7000	700	13	34							1	15	8
Redhead				3			100	900	1										2
Ring-necked Duck				8		80	10	26	18	1									5
Greater Scaup	250	1740	1725	6500	6300			1600	175		41	26	25	29					
Scaup sp.						10000	7000			250									170
Lesser Scaup	7000	7800	8100	6250	4800			45	500		13	1						4	3
Oldsquaw					3														
Black Scoter																			
White-winged Scoter	7	1	8							1	1		2	1				10	11
Common Goldeneye				1			7	14						1	1	1		12	10
Bufflehead						4	14	15											5
Hooded Merganser				2				36											2
Common Merganser							22	65	65	64	331	410	46	14	7		32		10
Red-breasted Merganser					1	2	25	70	4	1	5	2	1			1			34
Ruddy Duck	5	7	7	2	4	3	2	2	1										
Unidentified Waterfowl																			45
American Coot																			

LEWISTON RESERVOIR WATERFOWL

	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	10	4	10	4	9	10	9	9
	2	9	16	20	23	7	9	14	21	27	14	28	6	19	8	5	13	20
	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	90	90	91	91	91	92	92
Red-throated Loon																		
Common Loon	1	1		1	1	1		1	1		1							
Pied-billed Grebe				1														
Horned Grebe	19	4	6	3	13	1	2	1			3					2		
Red-necked Grebe																		
Eared Grebe																		
Double-crested Cormorant																		
Tundra Swan																		
Canada Goose		25		3														
American Black Duck																		
Mallard		15	4	1	3				2									
Northern Pintail																		
Blue-winged Teal								2								1		
Northern Shoveler																		
Gadwall		2									2							
American Wigeon			4															
Canvasback											117							
Redhead								2										
Ring-necked Duck				17												1		
Greater Scaup			130		400	15		49	10	1	50	80						
Scaup sp.												500						
Lesser Scaup	390	411	920	100+	660	13	46	37	4	4	2350		3	60	9		11	21
Oldsquaw	12	20	4	6	3	2	2	2				2						
Black Scoter																		
White-winged Scoter	2		2		2	5	4											
Common Goldeneye		2			1													
Bufflehead		36	58	18	82							5		18				
Hooded Merganser																		
Common Merganser		5	2									14						
Red-breasted Merganser	34	40	140	3	44	10	11	13	8	5		2		20				
Ruddy Duck			15	45	11		4	5	1	1								
Unidentified Waterfowl																1		
American Coot																		

	10	10	10	10	10	10	10											
	1	4	10	11	21	27	29											
	92	92	92	92	92	92	92											
Red-throated Loon																		
Common Loon				1		1	4											
Pied-billed Grebe																		
Horned Grebe						2												
Red-necked Grebe																		
Eared Grebe																		
Double-crested Cormorant		6	2	3														
Tundra Swan																		
Canada Goose																		
American Black Duck																		
Mallard																		
Northern Pintail																		
Blue-winged Teal																		
Northern Shoveler																		
Gadwall																		
American Wigeon																		
Canvasback				3			2											
Redhead					30													
Ring-necked Duck	5	2				2	65											
Greater Scaup	7	55	850	2205	345		165											
Scaup sp.						466												
Lesser Scaup	335	450		1700			320											
Oldsquaw																		
Black Scoter																		
White-winged Scoter																		
Common Goldeneye																		
Bufflehead																		
Hooded Merganser																		
Common Merganser																		
Red-breasted Merganser					3	2												
Ruddy Duck						2												
Unidentified Waterfowl																		
American Coot																		

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to New Associate Member:

Burt Schweigert
Rt. 1, Box 18
Great Valley, NY 14741
Tel: 945-4210

Members are reminded to complete and return their surveys along with their dues payment.

BOS MEETINGS

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, September 1 through June 15, inclusive, except for the fourth Wednesdays in November and December. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are held at the Buffalo Museum of Science, 1020 Humbolt Parkway, Buffalo, New York.

FIELD TRIPS

- Jan. 17: Sunday. Waterfowl Count for the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs. This is the target date but any date between January 16 and 24, inclusive, is acceptable. For a territory call the compiler: Joe DiDomenico (683-7343).
- Feb. 7: Niagara River. Meet at Vermont & Busti at 8:00 AM, or at 8:15 at the first parking area on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upstream from the Peace Bridge.
- Feb. 21: Sunday. Canadian Owl Trip. Meet at Vermont & Busti at 9:00 AM, or at 9:15 at the first parking area on the Canadian side 0.6 mi. upstream from the Peace Bridge. Leaders: Blayne Farnan (1-416-834-7541) & Dick Byron (662-4783).
- Mar. 20: **Saturday** not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plains of eastern Niagara County. Leader: Willie D'Anna (1-731-4348). Starting location and time to be announced latter.
- Apr. 4: Sunday. Daylight Saving Time. Set clocks ahead 1 hour.
BOS April Bird Count.
- Apr. 18: Hawk Migration at Grimsby, Ont. Meet at 8:00 AM in the Bob Evans parking lot in Niagara Falls, NY where I-90 crosses Niagara Falls Blvd. (Rt. 62), or go directly to the Beamer Conservation Area 30 mi. into Canada in the QEW, on the escarpment above Grimsby. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).
- Apr. 25: Sunday. Braddock Bay Hawk Watch. Joint trip with Rochester GOS. Meet at 7:00 AM at Amherst Book World, 0.1 mi. east of Main & Transit. We will join the GOS at 9:30 at the Braddock Bay shelter. Leaders: Mike Zebehazy (662-6987) and Bob Spahn (GOS).

Usually these trips take most of the day so a lunch should be brought.
For further information contact the Field Trip Chairman, Bill Burch, 773-3690.

For current bird sightings call: Dial-a -Bird (716) 896-1271.

To report sightings, call the Buffalo Museum of Science (716) 896-5200.

Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler:
Mr. William D'Anna, 2257 Cayuga Drive Extension, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please notify the Treasurer: Jane Heyer, 296 Westchester Blvd., Kenmore, NY 14217 Tel. (875-3318).

Back Issues: Available from the Treasurer @ \$0.50 per copy.

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